FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 JUNE 1984

Israeli-Syrian POW Exchange

Israel received 3 IDF soldiers and 3 civilians from Syria in return for 291 Syrian POW's captured in Lebanon and 20 other prisoners, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by IDF Radio following the exchange of prisoners at Al-Qunaytirah border crossing point. The two sides also exchanged the corpses of soldiers killed in the 1982 war, he noted, and they have both promised to make every effort to locate soldiers listed as missing in action. Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas greeted the released Syrian soldiers at Al-Qunaytirah, telling them in a speech reported by Damascus television that Syria is proud of its returning "heroes."

Commenting on Syria's motives in view of its earlier declaration that it would release the Israelis only as part of a wider agreement on IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, IDF Radio linked the exchange with reports that President Hafiz al-Asad is very close to resigning in favor of his brother, Rif'at al-Asad. If the rumors are true, the radio observed, the POW exchange may be Al-Asad's "festive farewell" to his people.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir welcomed the return of the Israeli prisoners in a statement reported by IDF Radio. He said Israel is continuing efforts to secure the release of all other Israeli POW's, adding that he hopes the day is near when all of them will return home. In a related statement broadcast by the radio, Defense Minister Moshe Arens noted that four Israelis are still held by the "terrorists" while the fate of three other IDF soldiers missing in Lebanon is still unknown.

Lebanon

Action Near Tripoli — An Israeli warship destroyed a "terrorist" boat after five Israeli sailors were wounded by gunfire when the warship encountered the vessel near the island bombed by Israeli planes on 27 June, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement on IDF Radio. Meanwhile, Voice of Lebanon radio said 20 people were killed and 40 others were wounded in the Israeli raid, and Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon reported that the casualties included fishermen and boy scouts. Baghdad Voice of PLO said that both Palestinian and Lebanese civilians were killed in the attacks, but the Palestinian radio neither confirmed nor denied Israel's claim that the PLO was using the island as a base.

Liaison Office — Israel has "clearly hinted" to the Lebanese Government that it may block electricity and fuel supplies to Beirut if the Lebanese Government expels the Israeli mission from Ad-Dubayyah, the Israeli paper *HATZOFE* reported.

Gulf Conflict

Tanker Attacks — Eight crew members of the Swiss-owned tanker *Tiburon* were killed and three were wounded in the 27 June Iraqi missile attack on the vessel off Khark Island, according to Tehran radio. Iranian fire-fighting vessels continued their efforts to extinguish the fire aboard the ship. Meanwhile, OPEC sources cited by INA reported that Iran has been unable to repair a Khark Island loading jetty that was damaged during the 24 June Iraqi missile attack on the Greek tanker *Alexander the Great*.

UN Delegation —Iran has agreed to allow the UN cease-fire monitoring delegation to visit Khorramshahr and Abadan and has approved the stationing of a three-member team in Tehran to monitor the cease-fire, according a UN spokesman cited by KUNA. Meanwhile, the UN delegation met and conferred with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Tehran radio reported.

Iran

The Soviet delegation led by Deputy Power and Electricity Minister Aleksey Makukhin departed after signing a memorandum on border exchanges and expansion of power stations, Tehran radio reported. Makukhin described his visit as "successful," and a delegation member said that final decisions are in the hands of senior Iranian and Soviet officials. The acting minister of commerce stressed that Iran would "take into consideration" positions adopted regarding Iraq.

Libya-Tunisia

Libya released the three Tunisian border guards who were detained on 8 May when they "strayed" across the Libyan-Tunisian border, JANA announced. The guards were released as a "fraternal gesture." In another "fraternal initiative," Libya released a Tunisian dredger and its 13 crew members on 25 June, JANA announced in an earlier report.

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'Arafat Arrives in San'a' on Official Visit

JN281713 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1614 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has arrived in San'a' on an official visit to the YAR that will last several days. Our correspondent has learned that brother leader Abu 'Ammar will hold talks with YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dealing with the latest developments in the Middle East and with Zionist terrorist practices against our Palestinian people in the occupied homeland. Our correspondent added that brother leader Abu 'Ammar will also discuss with the YAR president all efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war. He will also visit the Palestinian National Liberation Army forces that are stationed in fraternal YAR.

Yasir 'Arafat Discusses Israel on Vienna TV

AU282100 Vienna Television Service in German 1915 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Austrian TV reporter Hans Benedict at 'Arafat's headquarters in Tunis — date not given; interview conducted in English with superimposed German translation; passages in quotation marks transcribed from original English; opening passage is introduction by Benedict]

[Text] [Benedict] Yasir 'Arafat received the report on the conclusion of an internal agreement of peace in the PLO from his military deputy dispatched to Aden, Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], during a session of the Military and Security Committee of the largest PLO component, the Fatah, in his exile headquarters in Tunis.

'Arafat and his closest advisers, including the deputy chief of operations, Abu al-Mu'tasim, and political adviser (Karak), both with the rank of general, defined in Tunis the political and military course of Fatah for the PNC conference planned for Algiers in August 1984. This PLO parliament shall finalize a long-term program drafted by 'Arafat on what is called the intensification of the political struggle of the PLO components and on the sharpening of the military struggle in the territories occupied by Israel.

Question to 'Arafat: Will the PLO leadership, after the conclusion of this internal peace agreement, now be able to do what it could not do to date — that is, undertake an initiative vis-a-vis Israel in the form of an offer for peace negotiations without preconditions? Could not the PLO only benefit in such a case, regardless of whether Israel accepts or rejects such an offer?

['Arafat] We have already started this initiative. "You remember when during my visit to Beijing" we did so not in the form of a unilateral offer of negotiations — this is useless — but as an offer for an international peace conference under the UN flag, with all parties involved in the conflict and without any preconditions. This is our initiative. Remember one thing: A unilateral PLO initiative is senseless. This is what President as-Sadat's fate has taught us. As-Sadat imagined that he could win over the Israelis for a peace with the Palestinians. And what happened? The Israelis cheated him. Even President Carter cheated As-Sadat in Camp David with the promise that the Palestinian issue would be solved once As-Sadat would take the step to Jerusalem for peace negotiations. And this is why nobody will risk another disaster of this kind.

[Benedict] This means that another political setback, for example, a failure to bring about this large-scale conference, implies a return to military options?

['Arafat] "You are speaking about military options?" No, I term it a defense option and to this we are entitled under the UN Charter.

The UN Charter says that any people that suffers our destiny has the right to resist with all possible means.

[Benedict] In other words, do you thus exclude any chance for a more direct closeness between the PLO and a new Israeli government after the elections in July, even if it should be a Socialist government?

['Arafat] My hopes are pinned on the peace movements in Israel, that the Israelis will vote for peace, as a challenge for all of us, "and the challenge of this election is the peace."

If the Israelis do not do it, it will be because the West, America, and Europe, are spoiling Israel like a problem child instead of chastising it.

This can only lead to a disaster in this area.

Palestinian Delegations Initial Agreement, Depart

GF281424 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Excerpt] An agreement was initialed yesterday among the sides participating in the Palestinian national dialogue, which includes the Fatah Central Committee delegation under the leadership of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Fatah Central Committee member and deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; and the quadripartite Democratic Alliance, comprising delegations of the PFLP, led by Abu 'Ali Mustafa, assistant secretary general of the front; the DFLP, led by Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, assistant secretary general of the front; the Palestinian Communist Party, led by Sulayman an-Najjad, member of the party's Political Bureau; and the Palestine Liberation Front, led by Abu al-'Ula, member of the front's Political Bureau.

The dialogue was under the patronage of the YSP and the Algerian National Liberation Front Party.

The delegations of the Palestinian quadripartite alliance left Aden this morning following the conclusion of the third round of the Palestinian national democratic dialogue.

The delegations were seen off by Brother Mahmud an-Najashi, member of the YSP Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Central Committee; and a number of officials of the YSP Central Committee Secretariat.

Voice of PLO on Aden Talks, Damascus 'Blackmail'

JN282110 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] We have previously said that the continuation of the Palestinian dialogue is in itself a positive phenomenon. We have even said that this dialogue is a challenge to the parties seeking to dismember the Palestinian body. This has always been true. Those who came to the dialogue from Damascus are being subjected to great pressure and blackmail. This is a result of their presence in Damascus — a presence which is difficult to replace. The blackmail influences their disorganized organizations, some of which are controlled by outside forces.

We realized this difficult situation. We also realized the positive and negative aspects of acting under such conditions. We attempted to nurture the positive aspects in order to make them the predominant moves. However, we warned against prolonging and dwelling on this dialogue. In particular, we warned against permitting the Damascus pressure and blackmail to guide the dialogue. In a sincere and serious attempt, the Fatah command sought to prevent the demands of those who came from Damascus from becoming part of Damascus' interests. Otherwise, the dialogue would no longer be a Palestinian one, nor would it have any significance.

Unfortunately — and as we have recently seen in Aden — what we have warned against and sought to prevent has become the guiding and dominating role. Those who came to the dialogue from Damascus seem to be part of the Damascus war against the PLO and the Palestinian revolution. Our assessment does not mean that those who came from Damascus have tried and are still trying to achieve gains by exploiting Fatah's sincere intention to make the dialogue succeed. This has already been done.

Fatah has emphasized its sincere intention by making numerous political and organizational concessions out of its eagerness to achieve an effective Palestinian national unity. However, those who came from Damascus intolerably overstepped both the principle and objective of the dialogue. Is it not true that the principle of the dialogue is the assumption that the participants are convinced that achieving the joint Palestinian interest — the interest of the cause and people — is more important than achieving individual interests? Is it not true that the objective of the dialogue is to preserve the Palestinian people's achievements, which can only be preserved through national unity? How can these achievements be preserved without unified national institutions stemming from our people's struggle and representing their struggle to the world? What gives the dialogue any meaning if this is not its premise and objective, and if the Palestinian national institutions, both the representative and the executive ones, are not the frameworks governing the implementation of all that has been agreed on?

The pressure and blackmail exerted through the dialogue are acceptable only if they lead to an effective national unity — unity that preserves the people's achievements and pushes the march and its militant institutions forward. However, if the blackmail reaches a stage where our people's achievements, their national institutions, and subsequently their representation and the legitimacy of its struggle become the subject of blackmail, then this cannot be accepted. No dialgoue can be based on it.

Fatah is not concerned with threats of war against Fatah or with the intention to destroy the Palestinian national institutions and influence these institutions' legitimate representation of our people and their struggle. Fatah has its own concept of struggle. It is strong and has many options. We still hope that the proposed meeting at the level of secretaries general, Executive Committee members, and the PNC Secretariat will make the Palestinian dialogue become Palestinian once again. We still hope and endeavor to make this dialogue return to its principle and objective. We continue to ask the opponents: What is preventing the immediate convening of the PNC — our people's legislator and representative both to our people themselves and to the world — if a political and organizational agreement has actually been reached? We are still waiting for an answer, but we will not wait for long.

Nimr Salih Escapes Assassination Attempt

NC281743 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] A report received from Al-Biqa' indicates that Palestinian dissident Abu Salih [Nimr Salih] was subjected to an unsuccessful assassination attempt a short while ago by the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] group at the outskirts of the township of Jdita.

Report on Damascus Meetings, Al-Aranib Attack

JN281902 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met with the Lebanese Communist Party secretary general, George Hawi, yesterday evening in the presence of PFLP Secretary General George Habash. Talks during the 2-hour meeting dealt with the Palestinian Fatah meetings that were held in San'a' [as heard] and Algiers to reconcile the two disputing parties.

In another development, 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon; George Hawi; and In'am Ra'd, leader of the National Syrian Social Party, also met yesterday evening. Mahmud 'Abd al-Khaliq, George Batal, and Lebanese Deputy Albert Mansur attended the meeting. During the 4-hour meeting, the conferees discussed forming a democratic national front to replace the Lebanese National Salvation Front. 'Asim Qansuh left Damascus for Beirut today.

Michel Samahah arrived here this morning and stated that he has come on a private visit.

Finally, a spokesman for the general command of the Al-'Asifah forces — that is, the Fatah forces opposed to Yasir 'Arafat — said this afternoon that these forces used heavy weapons and rocket launchers to reply to the sources of Israeli fire against

Al-Aranib Island and coastal positions around the island in an attempt to prevent the Israelis from inflicting any casualties.

Reportage on Israeli Raid on Tripoli, Island

Resistance Spokesman on Raid

NC281753 (Clandestine) Palestinian Voice of National Unity in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Statement by Palestinian resistance spokesman in north Lebanon; read by announcer — date not given]

[Text] At 1915 on 27 June, prior to the Ramadan banquet on Holy Al-Qadr night, Zionist enemy aircraft carried out a savage raid on Tripoli and Al-Aranib Island, killing 4 civilians and wounding more than 30 others. The enemy tried to supplement its hostile raids by sending Zionist gunboats, which were confronted by Lebanese national resistance machine gun fire and prevented from achieving their objectives. The raid lasted more than 4 hours, during which the Lebanese national resistance repulsed the gunboats which tried to infiltrate the shores of northern Lebanon.

This operation is indicative of the savage actions of the Zionist enemy, which seeks to divert attention from its internal crisis which is caused by the escalation of operations of the Lebanese national resistance front. The operation is also consistent with the fascist plans undertaken by the isolationists to foil Rashid Karami's efforts to consolidate security and stability in Lebanon.

All these aggressions will not deflect the nationalists in Lebanon and their allies from their struggle and resistance to anything that affects Lebanon and its Arabism.

Voice of PLO Report

JN281805 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1614 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The Zionist enemy renewed the barbaric raid it began yesterday against the city of Tripoli, Al-Aranib Island, and the Al-Baddawi Palestinian refugee camp. The latest reports from northern Lebanon said that for the second consecutive day enemy warplanes bombed the port of Tripoli and various other areas in the city as well as Al-Aranib Island. The raids lasted 30 minutes. Zionist gunboats participated in the barbaric shelling of several civilian installations in the city of Tripoli and Al-Baddawi refugee camp. Reports from northern Lebanon said that two Zionist warships provided protection for two small gunboats which fired on the island and the port of Tripoli.

Twenty Palestinian and Lebanese citizens were martyred, and 80 others were wounded as a result of yesterday's barbaric raids. Reports from Tripoli said that rescue teams managed to evacuate many wounded and survivors, while 17 others were trapped on Al-Aranib Island as a result of the siege imposed on the island by 3 Zionist gunboats. The reports said that the enemy gunboats continued to bombard the Tripoli coast until late last night. The reports affirmed that the enemy warplanes used air-to-surface missiles weighing more than 1 ton. The Zionist warplanes paved the way for the barbaric raids by carrying out daily sorties over the north for 6 days.

The Zionist warships' bombardment of the island, Tripoli, and Al-Baddawi refugee camp followed the barbaric Zionist air raids. Reports said that the Zionist enemy warplanes were met by the Palestinian-national Lebanese resistance forces' intense ground fire from the island and Al-Baddawi refugee camp. Moreover, the Zionist gunboats also came under intense fire.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted that five Zionist soldiers were critically wounded by the fire directed against the Zionist gunboats. The Zionist military spokesman claimed yesterday evening that his warplanes launched intensive raids against PLO military bases on Al-Aranib Island, and that the PLO used the island as a naval base.

Aden VOP Reports Raids

GF282000 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The Israeli air and naval forces yesterday conducted a military operation against the city of Tripoli and Al-Aranib Island, which was used by the people coming to Tripoli by sea. The Israeli forces began their operation by attacking Al-Aranib Island from the air. This was followed by attacks from the sea. The operation continued for 2 hours. The militias, the [Islamic] unification force, and the popular forces confronted the Israeli forces. Many heroes were martyred and others were wounded. The clashes continued for more than 5 hours. The Israeli boats are still besieging the port of Tripoli and Al-Aranib Island. Exchanges of fire were still continuing early into the morning.

Israeli Military Patrol Attacked Near Sidon

JN281801 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1614 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The Palestinian-national Lebanese joint resistance men detonated a number of highly explosive charges under a Zionist military patrol on the main road east of the city of Sidon in occupied southern Lebanon. Several Zionist soldiers were either killed or wounded by the explosions. Reports from southern Lebanon said that the Zionist forces immediately closed the road and fired at Lebanese passersby in a cowardly and indiscriminate manner. One Lebanese citizen was martyred and three others were wounded.

Palestinians Reportedly Returning to Beirut

NC281718 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Excerpt] The periodical *MAGAZINE* has disclosed in a report it will publish tomorrow that the Socialists are giving passes to the armed Palestinians who have returned to West Beirut. About 3,000 Palestinians have returned to West Beirut. *MAGAZINE* explained that there are about 3,000 Palestinian fighters in 'Alayh, Bhamdun, and western Ash-Shahhar, and that they are affiliated with the PFLP-GC and the Democratic Front for the

Liberation of Palestine. The return of the Palestinians to Beirut is taking place under two slogans: The revolution must always return to its starting point; and, if we do not succeed in returning militarily to Beirut, then we will never return to Palestine.

Among those who have returned are leaders such as 'Awni al-Hilu, who has returned from Algeria; and Shafiq al-But, who has opened an office in Tariq al-Jadidah; and Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, alias Abu al-Hawl, who is also nicknamed Abu al-Irhab.

The returnees have also opened offices for the Palestinian news agency, WAFA, in the Al-Mazra'ah area.

MAGAZINE has also disclosed that Sunnis are encouraging the return of the Palestinians and are helping through their armed organizations, particularly the Al-Murabitan, the Arab Socialist Union, and the Communist Action Organization.

GULF AFFAIRS

AFP Reports 8 Killed, 3 Wounded in Tanker Attack

NC281336 Paris AFP in English 1312 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Zurich, June 28 (AFP) — Eight crew of the tanker *Tiburon* were killed and three wounded when the vessel was hit yesterday by an Iraqi missile off Khark Island in the Gulf, according to an announcement here by the ship's owners, Suisse-Outremer Reederei Ag.

The nationalities of the 31 crew have not yet been published.

In London earlier, a spokesman for Lloyds underwriters said the ship's engine room was ablaze and the quarters for its crew had been destroyed.

Lloyd's gave no information on the type of missile which hit the Liberian-registered vessel.

Lloyd's said the 125,000-ton tanker was believed to have just left the Iranian oil terminal on Khark Island when it was hit, and would therefore have been fully loaded. A salvage tug was also hit yesterday, at around the same time as the attack on the *Tiburon*. An Iraqi military spokesman reported that Iraqi aircraft had attacked "two very large naval targets."

Prime Minister on Gulf War, Israeli Air Raid

LD282306 Kuwait KUNA in English 1912 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Kuwait, June 28 (KUNA) — Crown prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah Thursday declared Kuwait's support to all initiatives aimed at attaining a peaceful settlement to the Iraq-Iran war and stemming the bloodshed between two Moslem states.

During a press audience this evening, Shaykh Sa'd noted that particularly during these days of holy Ramadan, all Moslems should go through their affairs with a spirit of mutual accomodation, reconciliation and amity and hoped that Tehran will respond to every endeavour aimed at realizing such an objective.

Commenting on Israel's air raid against the Lebanese "Rabbits Island" in the vicinity of Tripoli, the prime minister said the attack was no surprise or something new since, he underlined, Israel's very policy is founded on usurpation and terrorism.

His highness called upon the Palestinians, the Arab nation and the Moslems to derive the necessary conclusion from Israel's continued aggression against Lebanon, the Palestinian people and the Arab land and underscored that such an attack should serve as a lesson on the inevitability of national Arab solidarity and joint action to repel attacks against the Arab nation.

KUWAIT

ARAB TIMES: Defense Minister on Visit to USSR

GF281113 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 27 Jun 84 p 1

[Excerpts] Kuwait's defense minister, Shaykh Salim as-Sabah, said yesterday that this forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union was part of Kuwait's efforts to have balanced relations with the two superpowers.

Shaykh Salim will leave for Moscow on July 9.

He said his visit will boost relations between the two countries, and will be on the same lines as his visit to the U.S. in April.

The Kuwait Government had still received no official decision from the U.S. on the sale of Stinger missiles to Kuwait, he said.

"The Moscow visit is part of Kuwait's policy of establishing an even-handed relationship with the world's two superpowers," Shaykh Salim told reporters.

He said that the country's defense policy "is based on balancing ties with key powers and obtaining arms from any source that does not impose conditions."

Shaykh Salim did not disclose the types of weapons he was seeking in the Soviet Union, but informed sources said he was to sign for quantities worth several hundred million dollars. His list, these sources said, includes surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles and possibly tanks.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Calls for Solidarity in 'Id al-Fitr Message

GF290706 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Text of speech by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God. Praise be to God. Peace and prayers be on the honest guide, the Prophet, and his family and companions.

Brothers in the homeland of love, the origin of light and the cradle of prophethood. Brothers everywhere in the great Muslim homeland. Peace, God's blessings and mercy be upon you. Now as we bid farewell to a great month, one of God's months, a month in which God pours much good, mercy, and blessings on his servants, I am pleased to extend to all of you on the day of the blessed 'Id the heartiest congratulations and best wishes. I pray that Almighty God makes it an 'Id of good blessings, forgiveness, and mercy for us, accepts our good deeds, and grants us forgiveness for all that we failed to do, for he is the forgiving and merciful.

Brothers in Islam, on such a great Muslim occasion, we should see ourselves clearly by acknowledging to ourselves the things of our religion and life. All of us know the Muslim nation is now facing the biggest challenges to its nationhood and is passing through a critical stage in its history. We find the only way to fulfill our aspirations and outwit our enemies is to return to God by adhering to his book and the guidance of his Prophet. We should work sincerely and strive to unify our ranks based on

righteous and follow the right path. This can only be achieved through efforts to love each other and purify our souls. We should strive for sincere solidarity and love while adhering to God's laws so that we can be a nation which deserves what God says: "You were the best nation, for you enjoin good, prevent evil, and believe in God." [Koranic verse]

If we return to our history, since the beginning of Islam 14 centuries ago, we will find it full of lessons and jihad and full of victories and glories. We, brothers, have had many arguments and differences, and the loss of our nation's sons whom we have lost through bloody conflicts unjustified except in the rancor and hatred the enemy has planted in us which has caused us to be fragmented and has weakened us, is very regrettable.

Brothers, God has promised us victory if we support him. God will not break his promise, and we should not be terrified of an enemy. Our security will not be undermined by anyone who might be lurking about. Let us take heed of God's words: "There are those to whom men said, 'People have mustered against you, therefore fear them.' But this only strengthened their faith, and they said 'Allah is sufficient for us.'" [Koranic verse]

May God bestow blessed days on us and on all Muslims the security of our homeland and victory against our enemy. He is the best protector and guide. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Pakistani President Ziaul Haq Departs for Home

LD281256 Riyadh SPA in English 1213 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Medina, June 28, SPA — Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq left here today for home after a visit to the Kingdom during which he performed Umrah and offered prayers at the Prophet's mosque here.

He was seen off at the airport by Deputy Governor of Medina Sa'd an-Nasir as-Sudayri, Medina Mayor 'Umar Qaddi, and Commander of the Medina Military Commandant Gen Muhammed al-Kharbush.

YAR

President Salih Receives PLO's 'Arafat 28 Jun

GF281940 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at the presidential palace this evening brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, [Abu 'Ammar] PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces.

During the meeting, all the current Arab and international issues, the current developments in the Palestinian arena, and the struggle relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions were discussed.

During the meeting, Brother Abu 'Ammar briefed the brother leader, the secretary general, on the results of the dialogue which was held between Fatah and the Palestinian revolution factions and on the Arab and Islamic efforts being exerted to stop the Iraq-Iran war and to find a peaceful solution to it.

The brother leader affirmed our country's appreciation and support for all the efforts being exerted on the Arab, Islamic, or Nonaligned Movement level to end this war which is destroying the financial and human capabilities of the two Muslim peoples and to contain its serious results which will turn the region into an international conflict arena threatening its security and stability. He expressed his hope that the Palestinian dialogue results will strengthen the PLO's unity, the steadfastness of the Palestinian people, and their legitimate struggle against the usurper and occupier enemy to establish their independent state on their national soil. He affirmed our country's stable and principled stance in supporting the struggle of the fraternal Palestinian people and their just struggle to achieve their goal for liberation and a return to their homeland.

New Government To Be Announced Mid-July

NC282110 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that Kamal Hasan 'Ali, acting prime minister, will hold consultations after the blessed Id al-Fitr holidays regarding the formation of a new government. These consultations are expected to end and the new government to be announced around the middle of July.

AFP: USSR Envoy to Cairo Reportedly Appointed

NC291002 Paris AFP in English 0958 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Excerpts] Moscow, June 29 (AFP) — The Soviet Union proposes to appoint senior Foreign Ministry official Alexander Belonogov, 53, as ambassador to Cairo in a move indicative of improving Soviet-Egyptian relations, a diplomatic source said here today. The proposal had to be approved by Egypt, which earlier announced the appointment of Salah Basyuni as ambassador here, the source added. The Kremlin was thought to have approved the Egyptian choice. An exchange of ambassadors was expected to enable the Soviet Union to recover influence among "moderate" Arab states, after the 1978 Egypt-Israel Camp David accords gave influence to the United States which sponsored them. The Soviet Union has called repeatedly for an international Middle East conference. Trade exchanges between the Soviet Union and Egypt are expected to reach about 650 million dollars this year, an increase of around 25 percent in a year. The problem remains of an Egyptian military debt estimated at more than five billion dollars, contracted before the spectacular expulsion of nearly 15,000 Soviet advisers from Egypt in 1972. There are at present about 40 accredited Soviet diplomats in Cairo, and about 20 Egyptian diplomats here.

'Ali Hopes for Iraq, Iran Response to Appeals

NC281913 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Commenting on President Husni Mubarak's appeal to Iran to respond to peace efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, acting prime minister and foreign minister, stated that this appeal strengthens the Egyptian initiative and efforts of the Nonaligned Movement and the UN secretary general in this respect. He expressed hope that Iran and Iraq will respond to the peace appeals to put an end to the Gulf war from which the Iranian and Iraqi peoples have been suffering.

'Ali, UK Envoy Discuss Gulf War, Middle East

NC281500 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1447 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA) — Acting Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali met with British Ambassador in Cairo Michael Weir. Discussions during the meeting centered on the deteriorating situation in the Gulf, and the efforts being made to halt tension and end the Iraq-Iran war. Discussions also dealt with the situation in the Middle East, particularly the Palestinian and Lebanese issues.

Ash-Shafi'i, Netherlands Envoy Discuss Gulf War

NC281533 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA) — Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador 'Umran ash-Shafi'i today met with Netherlands Ambassador in Cairo Dr N.H. Biegman. They reviewed the deteriorating situation in the Gulf and the efforts being made to end the Iraq-Iran war. They also reviewed the results of the meetings of the [Egyptian-Sudanese] Supreme Integration Council which recently convened in Cairo.

Press Comments on Israeli Raids in North Lebanon

NC290759 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 29 Jun 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Diplomatic Terrorism," *AL-JUMHURIYAH* draws attention to the statement made yesterday by Israel's Defense Minister Moshe Arens in which he called for the closing of PLO offices in all world capitals. Simultaneously, Israeli planes were raiding Palestinian positions in Tripoli, North Lebanon. The fact that both Arens' statement and the raids took place on the same day speaks volumes about Israel's strategy in dealing with the increased international understanding of Palestinian rights — the rights for land and an independent state. It is obvious Israel is currently resorting to what can be termed "diplomatic terrorism." This new weapon is now being added to Israel's military terrorism — the conventional weapon that Israel has always used against the Palestinian people. The Palestinians are fighting for their liberation and independence in the same way all other independent nation have the, paper says. The struggle for national rights is not terrorism; hence, the paper argues, Israel has no right to accuse the Palestinians of engaging in terrorism.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes by hoping the Arab world will learn its lesson before it is too late; namely, might does not acknowledge right.

AL-AKHBAR also comments on the Israeli raids and on Lebanese national unity. The paper begins by saying that the Lebanese Government of National Unity, led by Rashid Karami, was nearing a political formula to unite Lebanon and end the bloody factional strife there. Meanwhile, Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil made an overture and visited Tripoli — the stronghold of Lebanese Sunnites. However, it appears such a reconciliatory atmosphere did not please Israeli politicians, which explained why Israel launched barbaric raids in northern Lebanon resulting in the killing of more than 15 civilians.

AL-AKHBAR says these raids confirm that Israel opposes peace, not only in Lebanon but throughout the entire region, and that it endeavors to perpetuate tension in the Middle East. In conclusion, the paper calls on Lebanese communities to maintain their composure and press ahead with their march for reconciliation and peace. By acting as one man, the paper says, the Lebanese will be able to confront the Israeli invasion and restore peace to every part of Lebanon.

Armed Forces Issues Communique No 1,510

JN281649 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Communique No 1,510 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 June 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces continued their successful activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the clique of evil and expansion ruling in Iran. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Using all types of weapons, our units delivered concentrated and effective blows to enemy positions and troop concentrations in areas opposite their positions east of Basra, destroying 19 infantry positions, 9 weapon emplacements, and 4 observation posts. In addition, several fires were started in enemy positions. Elsewhere in the same sector, two enemy vehicles were destroyed and their occupants were killed.

2. Our bold helicopter gunships destroyed two enemy boats and killed their occupants in the operational sector east of Tigris today. All of our helicopter gunships returned safely, praise be to God.

3. One infantry position and one observation post were destroyed in the northern sector of the battlefield. Elsewhere in the same sector, fresh groups of Iranians, fleeing the persecution and tyranny of Khomeyni's regime and criminal henchmen, sought refuge with our forward units. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 Jun 1984

Economic Cooperation Minutes Signed With GDR

JN282009 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Iraq and the GDR signed joint minutes on economic, trade, and technical cooperation this evening. Hasan 'Ali, RCC member, trade minister, and head of the Iraqi side to the joint Iraqi-GDR committee, signed for Iraq. Guenther Kleiber, member of the GDR Socialist Unity Party Politburo and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, signed for the GDR. The minutes, signed at the conclusion of the ninth session of the Iraqi-GDR joint committee for economic, technical, and scientific cooperation, include a trade plan for 1985.

In two cordial speeches exchanged after the signing ceremony, Hasan 'Ali and Kleiber expressed their appreciation of the efforts that were exerted to bring about these minutes. They described the minutes as a document expressing the profound confidence existing between Iraq and the GDR.

They also voiced their determination to continue their cooperation in the interest of their two friendly peoples.

Faysal Salman Ghazi, under secretary of industry and minerals and deputy chairman of the Iraqi side to the committee; the two countries' delegations; and the GDR ambassador in Baghdad attended the signing ceremony.

Kleiber Leaves Baghdad

JN290732 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jun (INA) — Guenther Kleiber, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, has ended a 3-day visit to Iraq, during which he signed joint minutes on economic, trade, and technical cooperation.

In a press statement before leaving Baghdad this morning, Kleiber expressed satisfaction at the results of his visit to Baghdad during which the ninth session of the Iraqi-GDR joint committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation held its meetings.

Kleiber said that the meetings have defined new areas of cooperation between the two countries in the future. He added that the viewpoints between the Iraqi and GDR sides were identical on many issues which seek to promote joint cooperation in all spheres.

Concluding, Kleiber said: We reached an agreement on encouraging cooperation in the areas of transport, communications, industry, agriculture, and other technical matters that were contained in the joint minutes.

Prince Hasan Arrives in Ireland, Holds Talks

JN290800 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Jun 84 pp 1, 20

[Excerpt] Dublin, PETRA — His Highness Crown Prince Hasan arrived in Dublin yesterday afternoon on a 1-day working visit to the Republic of Ireland.

The crown prince held talks with Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald on strengthening relations between the two friendly countries in technical and economic fields. These relations fall within the framework of cooperation with the EEC. They also discussed EEC assistance to Jordan to help it achieve its objectives, particularly in support of Jordan's industries and investments which serve neighboring Arab countries.

Industry Minister Returns From Talks in Iraq

JN282034 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Amman — Dr Jawad al-'Anani, minister of industry, trade, and industry, returned to Amman today following an official visit to Iraq. He held talks during the visit with Iraqi Oil Minister Ahmad Taqi and senior Iraqi officials. In a statement to a PETRA correspondent, Dr al-'Anani said that his talks with the Iraqi oil minister dealt with the means of promoting cooperation with respect to various commodities, including crude oil and its byproducts. He described his talks with the Iraqi side as useful, fruitful, and constructive. He said that the two sides reached an agreement on all the major principals and points regarding the agreement the two sides signed last April. This agreement is related to the implementation of the Jordanian oil pipeline which extends from the port of Al-Hadithah in Iraq to the port of Aqaba in Jordan.

French Official on Upcoming Mitterrand Visit

JN290945 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Jun 84 pp 1, 21

[Usamah ash-Sharif dispatch]

[Text] Paris — The French president's adviser for international affairs has said that President Francois Mitterrand's coming visit to Jordan will be important because it will enable him to formulate an idea about the future role which France can play in achieving peace in the region.

In a statement to *AD-DUSTUR*, the French adviser said that Mitterrand's talks with His Majesty King Husayn will revolve around bilateral relations, recent developments in the Middle East, and the Gulf war. He said that France does not expect important events to take place in the region during the coming months because of both the U.S. and Israeli elections.

On supplying Jordan with French arms, the French official said that his country will seriously consider any Jordanian request in this regard. He emphasized that France will ask the EEC group to expand the scope of the agreement concluded between itself and Jordan to include establishing more economic projects and increasing trade cooperation.

On the U.S. role in the Middle East, the French official said that France is not satisfied with this role because the United States simply deals with the different parties without understanding all the problems and their backgrounds. He added that the United States does not always listen to what we say and insists on establishing special relations with Israel. He reiterated that U.S. policy toward Israel is clear, but unclear toward the Arabs.

The French official expressed his belief that, in the end, there must be a comprehensive solution among conflicting sides in the region. He reiterated that this solution should be implemented by UN Security Council members, including the USSR. He said that France does not object to the concerned parties initiating a dialogue among themselves that may lead to a partial agreement that would pave the road for peace.

The French official explained that, regarding the situation in Lebanon, France is more optimistic now that it was 2 months ago, particularly with respect to the Karami government's ability to stabilize security and unite Beirut. However, he reiterated that it is still difficult to predict what will take place in the future.

The French official said that if Shim'on Peres, Israeli Labor Party leader, succeeds in the Israeli elections next month he may withdraw Israeli forces from Lebanon — if he obtains the necessary power from the Knesset; but he pointed out that this withdrawal will be preceded by lengthy negotiations with the Lebanese parties, because Israel will ask for guarantees in southern Lebanon, one of which could be keeping Antoine Lahd's army there. He said that if Lebanon asks France to submit a draft resolution to the UN Security Council regarding the dispatch of UN troops to southern Lebanon, France will then execute this request. He expressed his belief that the USSR will not veto this resolution again. He noted that the USSR wants to participate seriously in making peace in the Middle East and that there will be no feasible comprehensive solution without the USSR.

Concerning the reports on President Mitterrand's possible meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, the French official said that there are no arrangements for holding this meeting and that is is better to wait before speaking about this matter.

A senior aide to the French external relations minister made a statement to *AD-DUSTUR* saying that the PLO must be a party to any Middle East peace plan. This aide criticized the U.S. role in the region and said that this role ignores the concerned parties, with the exception of Israel.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Reports Israeli Exercise

PM281550 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jun 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — Travelers from the occupied West Bank have told *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* that the town of Hebron has for the past 3 days been in a "state of mock war" in view of the military exercise staged by an entire Israeli army division inside the town. They added that all sections of the Israeli army are taking part in the exercise, including the Air Force, the infantry, and various types of tanks and mechanized units, and that the areas around Qiryat Arba' are the central zone of the exercise.

The travelers emphasize that the inhabitants are no longer unaware of the aim of the exercise, which is to keep the city in a permanent state of fear and terror to facilitate implementation of the Judaization plot. Jews have begun going in droves to the holy Al-Ibrahimi Mosque for prayers. They transformed most of it into a synagogue.

The travelers say that the Judaization of the town has entered a serious and decisive stage and that the Israelis are building a massive building in the heart of the city and are calling it "Hadasa." Those who have seen the design of the building say that it will be the biggest building in the town of Hebron.

Military Council Discusses Security Plan Details

NC290624 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Text] The Military Council yesterday continued discussing details of the security plan and the reorganizing and rehabilitation of the Army preparatory to assuming its security role in the next phase. The Council discussed again the priorities in the plan, including the opening of crossing points between the two sectors of the capital, the withdrawal of heavy weapons, and the reopening of the airport and the port. All these details and the arrangements related to the plan are expected to be reviewed at the next Cabinet session for approval. According to some sources, the Cabinet is expected to meet sometime next week. The sources expect that the plan will be implemented hours after its approval by the Cabinet because of the importance of speed to foil the schemes of those opposed to the salvation march and stability.

'Usayran Hopeful On Implementation

NC281706 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran has expressed his satisfaction over the progress made by the Military Council in preparing for the implementation of the security plan approved by the Cabinet during its recent meeting. Minister 'Usayran noted the positive atmosphere prevailing during the Military Council meetings and expressed the hope that the security plan may be completed within 1 week, and implementation begin the week after. Minister 'Usayran said the results achieved thus far with regard to the security plan are satisfactory, and that this is what all the Lebanese want.

Minister 'Usayran met today with Army Commander General Michel 'Awn who briefed the minister on the details of the security plan and the stages covered in the Military Council meetings in this regard.

Liaison Committee Discusses Security in Beirut

NC290634 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Text] The joint Security Liaison Committee made up of the Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun, the Amal Movement, and the Progressive Socialist Party, held a meeting at Dar al-Fatwa yesterday afternoon attended by officers of the Internal Security Forces and the Lebanese Army 6th Brigade, and representatives of Dar al-Fatwa. The conferees dealt with the security situation in Beirut and the means for preventing any transgressions harmful to the security march.

UN Memo Prepared on Israeli Attack on Al-Aranib

NC281217 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The Lebanese Foreign Ministry has asked Ambassador Fakhuri, Lebanon's envoy to the United Nations, to prepare a memorandum on the Israeli operation [on Al-Aranib Island] and to give it to all UN members. The Foreign Ministry pointed out that approximately 15 were killed and 20 wounded during the operation — which comes on top of what is taking place in some townships of the south.

Birri Denounces Raid

NC281411 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic
to Lebanon 1300 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of justice and minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, held a news conference this afternoon at his office in the UNESCO building. He condemned Israel's arbitrary practices in the south and denounced the raid on the Al-Aranib Island in the north.

Birri said: After having observed that the countdown in the Lebanese crisis has begun, starting with the unification of the capital and the Army; after having noted Arab support [for Lebanon], particularly fraternal Syria's support; and after a serious attempt has begun to reunify the capital so it will be the starting point toward the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya, what we have been fearing has happened; namely, Israel's obstruction of all endeavors to frustrate the reconciliation process and keep Lebanon in the whirlpool of violence. All this is being done so Israel can remain relaxed in south Lebanon in order to implement its aims and schemes and to make the world forget the crimes and arbitrary practices it is perpetrating.

Minister Birri added: Therefore, we find ourselves dutybound to contact the major powers. We have summoned these countries' ambassadors and have briefed them on what is happening in the south. In addition to this, Birri said he has sent cables to the UN secretary general, the Arab League secretary general, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, King Fahd, Imam Khomeyni, and Iranian President Khamene'i, calling for concerted efforts to halt the terrorist practices in the south. In his cable, Birri explained what is really happening in south Lebanon.

Shi'ite Leader Condemns Attack

NC290645 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, yesterday followed up developments regarding the general situation in Lebanon, new developments in the security and political fields, and proposed solutions for ending the current crisis. His eminence also paid attention to the conditions in the south, particularly in wake of the increasing Israeli terrorism against the peaceful citizens and the Zionist occupation forces raids and arrests of citizens.

Shaykh Shams ad-Din condemned the Israeli air and naval raid on Al-Aranib Island near Tripoli and said the raid provides new evidence of Israel's aggressive expansionist nature. He added that all good forces in Lebanon with the support of fraternal Syria are seeking to restore peace and stability in Lebanon, but that Israel is attempting to kindle the war and stir up seditions.

20 Dead, 40 Wounded
NC282044 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Lebanese Army units have continued removing debris and evacuating the casualties from Al-Aranib Island. The latest report indicates that the number of those who died in the Israeli raid has risen to 20 and the number of wounded to 40.

Sham'un Meets With British Envoy 28 June
NC281715 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] At 1730, [former] President Camille Sham'un received David Miers, British ambassador in Lebanon. Both sides discussed various aspects of current developments.

Junblatt Reviews Current Situation With U.S. Envoy
NC281401 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, met at noon today with Reginald Bartholomew, U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, and reviewed with him the security and political situation in the country.

Mufti Khalid Calls for New Political, Social System
NC290557 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Text] Lebanon today celebrates the first day of the Id al-Fitr holiday. Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the republic, officiated prayers at Imam 'Ali Mosque in Tariq al-Jadidah which political and religious personages and large crowds attended. Prayers were also held in various Lebanese areas.

In his sermon at dawn today, Shaykh Hasan Khalid said: While we are now calling for restoring our system we are not calling for the restoration of any system, but for agreement on a new system for political and social life in Lebanon. Such a system will safeguard Lebanon against chaos, protect it against the division that took place, and rescue it from its ordeal. My sons and brothers, you should know that the regime is now adopting steps which have priorities, and the first priority remains liberating our land and people from the Israeli enemy occupation.

The occupation of the south, Rashayya, and western Al-Biqa' is neither a southern nor a Biqa'i question, but is definitely a general Lebanese question. There will be no Lebanon without the south. Without Al-Biqa' all Lebanon will crack and collapse. The liberation question in Lebanon cannot be divided. We understand the government's security plan as paving the way for ensuring Lebanon's security against the Israeli enemy occupation. We understand the political reform as an impregnable and lasting reform in confronting domestic division and ending the traditional sectarianism that had created conditions allowing for hostile foreign interference.

Palestinian Officials Discuss Military Moves
NC281239 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] A number of Palestinian officials, heads of Palestinian centers and cells in Beirut and the suburb held a meeting today at which they agreed to demand from those Palestinians who were in Lebanon prior to 1982 to return to Beirut, and to re-equip and re-organize all the armed Palestinian groups in order to retrieve the positions they lost during the Israeli operation. They also agreed to begin military recruitment of those Palestinians in Lebanon and on setting up a unified command and operations room. Within this context, the distribution of weapons and the intensification of military training have commenced as well as the forceful seizure of houses on the pretext that the Palestinians occupied these houses prior to the 1982 events.

Israelis Encircle Ma'rakah With Tanks, Armored Vehicles
NC290507 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Text] The town of Ma'rakah continues to be under siege by the Israeli occupation forces which last night raided the town and arrested approximately 250 youths. Reports from there say that the occupation forces encircled the town with 280 armored vehicles and tanks, supported by 3 helicopters. A 7-hour battle took place between the occupation soldiers and town inhabitants, resulting in the wounding of four persons. The enemy bulldozers demolished a number of buildings including the citadel.

Arson Suspected in Beirut Hospital Blaze
AU281948 Rome ANSA in English 1940 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] (ANSA) Beirut, June 28 — Arson is believed to be the cause of a fire which completely destroyed the field hospital donated by the Italian Government to Palestinian refugees in the southern outskirts of Beirut today.

Between 1100 and 1400 GMT, flames devastated the hospital building, destroying beds, equipment, laboratory instruments, and medicines donated by Italian hospitals at the withdrawal of the Multinational Force in February. An eyewitness told ANSA that he saw a man fleeing from the area of the hospital when the fire broke out. Electrical mains showed signs of sabotage. At the moment the fire broke out, the hospital, which was being used as a walk-in clinic, was deserted. Patients are received in the morning and afternoon and there are no guards in the interval.

Algerian Ambassador's Residence Attacked 28 Jun
NC281228 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] A group of Amal Movement gunmen riding in a car in the airport circle today fired a number of rockets and machine gun volleys at the Algerian ambassador's residence and its vicinity, resulting in a limited clash between the gunmen and the residence guards. Algerian diplomats complained to the Foreign Ministry about this aggression and held contacts with certain officials

from various organizations to put an end to these provocations. In Sabra, an Amal patrol stormed a Palestinian center and attempted to close it down. The patrol clashed with the center's gunman and a number of the latter were wounded. The two sides brought reinforcements to the area. The Amal gunmen immediately intensified their patrols and roadblocks in the areas of the Palestinian camps while Palestinian officials called a general mobilization.

In Corniche al-Mazra'ah, limited clashes took place at approximately 1300 today between Amal gunmen and others from various organizations for reasons still unknown. Numerous roadblocks were immediately erected by the Amal and the Junblattists in the Al-Barbir and Corniche al-Mazra'ah areas, particularly in front of Abu Khudr Restaurant. It was observed that Al-Murabitun gunmen were mobilized in Tariq al-Judaydah, Al-Mazra'ah, and Abu Shakir. Exchanges of fire was also heard in the inner streets of Al-Barbir and the outskirts of Qasqas.

We have just received a report saying that the Al-Barbir road was cut because of an intensification of the clashes between Amal and Junblatt gunmen in the areas of Corniche al-Mazra'ah, Qasqas, and Al-Barbir. Machine guns and rockets are being used in these clashes.

Lebanese Forces Deny Obstruction of Security Plan
NC281300 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] For 1 week until today, local and Syrian circles have distributed and leaked information to the various media, implying that the success of the security plan depends on the Lebanese Forces' stand. These circles are even trying to make public opinion entertain the illusion beforehand that the security plan will be a success, that this is a foregone conclusion, and that the Lebanese Forces are the ones impeding its implementation. This comes at a time when the security plan itself — whether with regard to the geographical areas [where it will be implemented] or its provisions and the security means for implementation — is not known yet.

The fact is that the security plan is now facing obstacles put up by pro-Syrian groups. This exaggerated optimism in showing that the security plan will be successful, but making its success dependent on the Lebanese Forces disguises the other side's intention to impede the plan and to hold another side responsible beforehand. This has been a media plot adopted by Syria since the start of the war.

The Lebanese Forces are have full confidence that the Lebanese people, after their numerous and bitter experiences, can differentiate between the side that is struggling for the sake of Lebanon's security and freedom, and the sides that are working to destroy all of Lebanon, including the security situation.

The Lebanese Forces want to draw the attention of public opinion to this dishonest media act and to stress that the Lebanese Forces are a movement for security and peace in the Lebanese society and that it is incredible for anyone to try to outdo them in their endeavor to provide security and stability in Lebanon. Deputies who visited the presidential palace yesterday say that the security plan is not ready for tomorrow and preparing it might take 2 or 3 weeks. In fact, problems and obstacles emerged today during Military Council discussions and from the preparatory contacts held with the political leaderships. The most prominent of these problems and obstacles are:

1. Regrouping Army officers and soldiers after this Army had disintegrated in West Beirut and the mountain.

2. Distributing the ranks and officers among the brigades.

3. Beefing up the brigades. In this respect, the military command has so far failed in convincing Christian officers and soldiers to go to West Beirut and vice versa. Neither Christian soldiers nor Muslim soldiers want to be hostages.

4. Drawing up the geographical area where the Army will be deployed. Will it include greater Beirut? What is the extent of greater Beirut? Will it include the mountains, and which mountain? In this context, there are differences between the Junblattists and the Amal movement. Amal wants to limit the security plan to Beirut and the suburb while, Junblatt wants the plan to include the mountain too. By limiting the plan to Beirut and the suburb and excluding the mountain, Nabih Birri is aiming at maintaining a geographical area that has no legitimate force and thus he could expand [his influence]. Junblatt, meanwhile, wants the plan to include the mountain not for the sake of restoring legitimacy but for consecrating the separatist status quo which he has created in the mountain after last year's battles and for consolidating the status of the Druze officers and soldiers in the Hammanah barracks.

5. The issue of the Internal Security Forces' role in the security structure, which the security plan will approve.

6. The issue of co-existence between the Army and the Forces on the ground.

7. The issue of re-opening crossing points. There are some who want the crossing points to be opened all at once, while others prefer it to be limited to the following three crossing points: the port, the museum, and Galerie Sim'an in order to facilitate the supervision of movement and out of fear of booby-trapped cars.

8. The issue of the Palestinian camps' status.

9. The nature of the tasks that will be entrusted to the Army within the context of the security plan. The regime wants the Army to have a free hand to confiscate weapons, to arrest criminals, foreigners and infiltrators, and to expel the Palestinians who have recently returned to Beirut. The opposition wants the Army to be deployed without having an effective security role.

Within the context of the obstacles facing the security plan, there is the stand of [former] President Sulayamn Franjiyah. Even though he is outside Beirut, he is waging a constant attack on the government through his media organs and is preventing move-

ment of the Lebanese Army between Beirut and the north, in addition to exacerbating [the security situation] at the Shinta, Dayr Billa, and Bziza, frontlines in the al-Batrun ridges. It has been learned that after his return from Damascus, President Franjiyah has continued to call on soldiers and officers to move to the north. A meeting of these officers will be held within the next 24 hours.

The newspaper *AS-SAFIR* has reported that the Syrians have failed to convince him to change his stand and that they understood before his opposition to the formation of the government. Hence, the security plan obstacles are not the ones caused by the Lebanese Forces as some people are trying to show, but by other parties which have continued to disturb security, calmness, and stability for 10 years.

Organization Claims Execution of 'Agents' in South

NC281400 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The National Justice Organization [munazzamat al-'adalah al-wataniyah] has announced that it has carried out justice sentences against agent Wasif Muhammad Rammal, a member of the National Guard in Ad-Duwayr, and against 'Ali 'Amir from As-Saksakiyah, who was seriously wounded. The organization renewed its warning, which it considers as final, to all agents to stop dealing with the enemy.

Talas Receives Syrian POW's, Makes Speech
JN282000 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] On instructions from President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, and as a result of Syria's firm position on the return of the heroic fighters who were taken prisoner by the Israeli forces during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief and deputy prime minister and defense minister, accompanied by Major General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces, and a number of senior officers in the Armed Forces General Command went to the liberated town of Al-Qunaytirah at 1000 this morning. At the UN observation post there, the Syrian Arab prisoners were exchanged for Israeli prisoners under the auspices of the International Committee for the Red Cross and under the supervision of the UN Disengagement Observer Force.

The bodies of our heroic martyrs who have watered the soil of the homeland with their blood, thus manifesting the leader of our march President Hafiz al-Asad's slogan of martyrdom or victory, were received and buried in the martyrs cemetery at Najhah according to the usual ceremony.

Amidst the crowd's happiness over the return of the former prisoners, General Mustafa Talas gave an impromptu speech during which he conveyed greetings and congratulations from President Hafiz al-Asad to his sons who have returned to the homeland. The general addressed the released prisoners by saying: Syria is proud of you heroes who have returned. Your Arab nation is also proud of you, and proud of the fact that you fought in Lebanon and prevented the Zionist enemy from realizing its objectives. You knew more than anyone else why Israel invaded fraternal Lebanon. They came to strike at the Syrian Arab Forces in Lebanon. You knew that you were in Lebanon to stop the infighting among the brothers, and that our forces were making security and not defense arrangements. Despite this, you fought with honor and heroism.

Talas talked about our Armed Forces' confrontation of U.S. aircraft when they attempted to reconnoiter our positions. He stressed that we have confronted the enemy on land, at sea, and in the air. The NATO Forces withdrew from Lebanon after your comrades in our country and in the Lebanese nationalist forces proved their courage and bravery in confrontation — as you did in 1982. Gen Talas stressed that thanks to the efforts of our leader President Hafiz al-Asad and to the support of the socialist bloc countries, the foremost of whom is the friendly Soviet Union, we have been successful in marching toward achieving strategic balance with the Zionist enemy and in fighting for the Arab causes of destiny.

Gen Talas pointed out President al-Asad's concern for our hero prisoners while they were in the Nazi-Zionist detention centers, and said that he kept apprised of their condition and was proud of their steadfastness and dignity in facing the enemy. Talas stressed that we will remain true to our pledge, with a gun in our hand to continue the march of liberation. Concluding his speech to the amassed crowd, Gen Talas said: Welcome, our returned heroes, to your steadfast country among your kinfolk and comrades. Among the Syrian Arab prisoners who returned to the homeland is Mujahid Shaykh Shakib abu Jabal, who spent more than 12 years in the Israeli enemy's jails because he rejected occupation, confronted the occupier, and called for liberation.

Despite all of the Zionist enemy's attempts to impose its conditions on Lebanon in order to delay the exchange of prisoners and to obstruct the arrangements for the return of a number of occupied Golan strugglers, Al-Asad's Syria has been able to succeed in its efforts. Thus, Syria has deprived the Israeli enemy of an opportunity, disproved all of its false allegations, and proved to the world that Al-Asad's Syria is as concerned with humanitarian arrangements connected with human issues and the homeland as it is capable of deterring the aggression. We hail the returning heroes, and pledge to continue the steadfastness and confrontation until victory and liberation are achieved.

Indian Official Meets Vice President Khaddam
JN281544 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam this morning received Romesh Bhandari, under secretary of the Indian Foreign Ministry. Muhammad Isam an-Na'ib, assistant foreign minister, attended the meeting. Talks centered on the situation in the region and issues of mutual interest.

Departs Damascus 28 June
JN282036 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Romesh Bhandari, under secretary of the Indian Foreign Ministry, left Damascus today following a 2-day visit.

Israeli Bombardment of Lebanon's Al-Aranib Reported
JN281249 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Excerpt] Beirut — The Lebanese Military Council will continue its meetings today in order to lay down the final broad lines of the security plan. Reports say that this plan calls for opening the crossings, deploying the Army in Beirut, and opening the port and the airport. The security plan will then be presented to the Cabinet for approval. On the security level and in order to obstruct efforts aimed at creating an Arab and independent Lebanon, the Israeli invasion forces this morning continued the naval and aerial bombardment of Al-Aranib Island, martyring 28 persons and wounding 40 others.

AL-BA'TH Ridicules Reagan Position on Jerusalem
PM271544 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 22 Jun 84 p 2

[Samih abu Takk article: "The Trickery in Reagan's Position on Jerusalem"]

[Text] The question of moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem is still a controversial issue in

U.S. political circles. The U.S. Congress is in favor of such a move and has prepared a bill for that purpose, President Reagan has opposed the bill.

We will not discuss the congressional support for such a move. It is a well known fact. Congress is controlled by the U.S. Jews. What we want to discuss and explain is President Reagan's position. Reagan, renowned for his hostility to the Arabs and his support for the Zionists, now declares that he is against moving the embassy.

This is indeed strange, coming from Reagan, but one should not view this attitude in a simplistic and abstract way. If we consider the reasons for Reagan's attitude, we will see that it does not stem from noble intentions toward the Arabs. He has calculated that an embassy move would above all threaten U.S. interests in the Arab region. He must also have considered what the Arab reaction to such a decision would be, not forgetting that this reaction would place him in a difficult position in an election year.

Reagan and the entire U.S. Administration, including those who support and those who oppose the move, never opposed any Zionist measure in occupied Palestine. In fact, Reagan, the chief political executive in the United States, has seized every opportunity to provide Israel with aid. This fact is confirmed not only by the attitude of Reagan and his administration to the issue of occupied Jerusalem, which Israel wants to make its capital, but also by all U.S. actions against the Arabs.

If we go back to the origin of the idea of making Jerusalem Israel's capital, we will see that the Israeli decision was, without doubt, not taken without U.S. approval, just as in the case of every Zionist aggression against the Arab nation. It has been categorically established that the United States is an actual and equal partner in Israel's aggressions and decisions.

Reagan's attitude is not an attitude toward the Arabs. It is obviously an attempt to give the Arabs the impression that the United States harbors good intentions toward them. U.S. intentions have never been sincere. This is just a theoretical position which is exactly the opposite of the actual U.S. position on the conflict in the Arab region.

If the Reagan administration is really against moving its embassy to Jerusalem, which is very doubtful, then it must not only refuse to move the embassy but must also reject any Zionist step toward judaizing the city. The U.S. Administration could if it wanted — but actually it does not want to — pressure Israel by reducing its unlimited military aid for it, and it could withhold moral support from Israel in international circles and stop aborting the UN resolutions which condemn Israeli practices against the Arabs.

To sum up, we say that the U.S. Administration's position on occupied Jerusalem is purely tactical. Its aim is to absorb Arab resentment against the United States and safeguard its vital interests in the Arab world, which would undoubtedly be threatened. It is not unlikely that the U.S. Administration may at a later stage decide to move its embassy to Jerusalem, after giving Israel time to trick world public opinion and impose a fait accompli on the Arabs of the United States.

Opposition to U.S. Middle East Ambitions Noted

JN281600 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: When Syria said no to U.S. plans and schemes for capitulation to Zionism, it meant what it said and it appreciated all the results and probabilities. When Syria said it stood by Lebanon, land and people, it committed itself to this slogan as a principle and a strategy. It will not deviate from it. When Syria declared its pan-Arab position of being committed to the Palestinian people and their cause, it meant that it is determined to support those who have legal rights — whatever the sacrifices. It will not pay anything less than the price required by humanity and pan-Arabism, because this is the will of the whole nation.

By looking at these positions — which constitute a firm strategy that Syria will implement and defend — the sides who are trying to obstruct the national march in Lebanon should understand very well that Syria is determined to save Lebanon from Zionist and U.S. imperialist plans, and that the only sovereignty it will accept on Lebanese soil will be that of the people and of Arabism.

Our people in this steadfast and struggling country have given all of their potential and ability for liberation, and have pledged themselves for this cause. Our people possess the principles and the patriotic and pan-Arab values manifested by leader Hafiz al-Asad's determination and strong will. These principles and values make the entire Arab nation rally around Syria, and make the forces of liberation, progress, and peace throughout the world see Syria as the force that is confronting the fiercest imperialist-Zionist attack against the humanitarian and cultural values of the Middle East.

The United States, which has successfully gathered its allies to participate in an aggression against Syria and all Arabs, is trying hard to make Israel the tool for carrying out its ambitions, and to make the Arab homeland a theater for its operations against the forces of liberation and progress throughout the world. The United States and its ally Israel are trying to subject Syria to their will — which has been accepted as fate by the sides of defeatism and capitulation — by creating more areas of tension in order to increase the fronts on which Syria is fighting to defend Arab rights and destiny. In making their calculations, the enemies of our people and nation have ignored the logical and correct fact that Syria, as its leader struggler President Hafiz al-Asad has stressed, is capable of waging the battles imposed on it with high proficiency, and that Syria can be successful in all of its battles.

If international Zionism has succeeded in creating an extrensive imperialist alliance that works to further its objectives and ambitions in the Arab homeland — something which has been confirmed by the Washington conference that was held with U.S. preparation and instigation — then the Arab citizen, when faced with these Zionist successes, should recall why the United States adopted the strategy of striking at Syria and the Palestinian resistance after it has considered the pan-Arab struggle of the Arab nation as terrorism, and after it has made all of the Western

European states adopt this strategy and seek to implement or impose it on the Arabs in all of their countries. Such a recollection will clarify the truth. The United States uses the Arabs themselves to overpower the Arabs. Israel commits aggression because the United States has given it the task of striking the Arabs, whom the United States views as terrorists who deserve to be punished.

We must remind those who provide the United States with support and aid that this is transferred into support and aid for Israel. This is because Washington's strategy of cooperating with the Zionist movement does not distinguish one Arab from another. The strategy is directed against all Arabs, because their mere existence obstructs Israel's plan to establish the promised land of Israel.

Faced with — these facts — which the Americans, the Zionists, and their allies in the imperialist West have agreed on in order to terrorize the Arabs under the slogan of resisting terrorism — it becomes necessary for the Arab people in all Arab countries to move in support of the Syrian position and fend off the Zionist threat by destroying the symbols who have ignored an entire nation's existence so that the United States and consequently Israel can live, and so that its threat against Arab existence and destiny can continue.

Prisoners Released in Exchange With Syria Welcomed

Arens Holds News Conference

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1714 GMT 28 Jun 84

[News conference with Defense Minister Moshe Arens, Shmu'el Tamir and Major General 'Amos Yaron, the head of IDF Manpower Branch at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv — live]

[Text][Arens] For us this is a happy day. We have worked almost 2 years for the release of our POW's held by the Syrian Army. We were concerned for them and missed them. We were in constant touch with their families, we shared in their suffering, and we succeeded in bringing them home, together with the three Israelis connected with our liaison office in Ad-Dubbayah who were kidnapped about 2 months ago. It has already been said, and you know, that we are continuing in firm attempts to secure the release of seven other IDF soldiers: four who are known to be held by the terrorists have been named, and three who are missing and whose fate we actually do not know. We will continue to treat this matter with the expectation that we will be able to locate them and bring them home, as we have brought our prisoners home this morning. I feel that I must mention all those people who strove to attain this objective with patience and perseverance, in keeping with all the qualities which are characteristic to Israel and especially the IDF: the lawyer Shmu'el Tamir, who for the last year has acted to bring about the release of our prisoners; the head of the IDF Manpower Branch Major General, 'Amos Yaron; and their aides. We view this important day as another step toward ending the task of bringing them all back home.

Tamir Views Exhange

TA281840 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1720 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Address by chief negotiator for the return of prisoners, former Justice Minister Shmu'el Tamir, at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, immediately following the statement by Defense Minister Prof Moshe Arens — live]

[Text] For 18 months the Syrians were not prepared to launch negotiations. The official and unofficial answer they gave to overtures regarding negotiations was: The war is not over, and as long as the IDF remains in Lebanon there will be no negotiations on a prisoner exchange. Six months ago the Syrians changed their position, and contacts through the International Red Cross [IRC] began, partly in writing and partly through oral messages. The Syrians refused to hold the talks along the border, and turned down suggestions to hold rapprochement talks [sihot qirva] in Geneva, as we did with regard to the 'Arafat terrorists. This negotiating method prolonged the process. There was also a great gap in the positions.

In the past 6 months, there were various stages, ups and downs, freezes and thaws. When the three civilians from the Israeli liaison office in Lebanon were kidnapped, it seemed that the situation was getting more involved and difficult because the Syrians had never defined their status.

At the same time, we felt that due to reasons which cannot be detailed in this forum, the Syrians had shifted somewhat and were still interested in reaching an agreement, which would be as close as possible to the conditions they had stipulated. Over the past 3 weeks, thanks to our initiative and due to our pressure, intense negotiations were resumed through Mr (Hofliger), the director of the Middle East Department of the IRC.

Last Thursday, Mr (Hofliger) brought the latest Syrian proposal to a meeting with me in London, and announced the following Syrian conditions: The release of the three IDF soldiers who had been in captivity for 2 years, the transfer of the bodies of the IDF casualties — Aharon Katz and Zohar Lifshitz — and the bodies of three more unidentified personnel; in return for 291 Syrian troops and officers, and 20 prisoners from the Golan Heights — most of whom were tried for espionage, and an expression of future readiness to look for the missing-in-action from both sides. By virtue of a Cabinet resolution, I informed Mr (Hofliger) that we were rejecting the proposal outright as we would not accept a distinction between the three veteran prisoners and the three new ones. This was our unequivocal answer.

On Monday the Syrians announced their acceptance of our position, and we opened intense negotiations. We signed the final agreement [heskem] last night. This concluded yet another chapter of the release of prisoners by the Government of Israel. You will remember the first six who were released in November. Now another 6 have been released, making a total of 12 of the 19 prisoners and missing-in-action Israel lost during the Peace for Galilee war.

May add with extreme caution that it is precisely the negotiations — which ultimately succeeded — that open a door for some kind of movement with regard to those held captive by Jibril. I shall add no more because we face a tough adversary. Yet we have more than just a feeling that there is a chance for success. I repeat: There is an agreement [heskem] with the Syrians to continue to search for those who are missing.

I believe this is the appropriate place to note and point out that there is certainty that three Israeli captives are held by Jibril: Nisim Salem, Yosef Groff, and Hezi Shay. At a news conference 9 months ago, I said we had grounds to believe that Hezi Shay was alive and kept by Jibril's men. Today I can say that objective international bodies have definitely confirmed this. In fact, no denial of this has come from Jibril. On the contrary, there is a confirmation that they have Hezi Shay healthy, alive, and in one piece. I must add, however, that there is the possibility that Jibril does not only have Hezi Shay. As for the missing, they are on Syrian soil — in one form or another — or at least under direct or indirect Syrian control, and we are not relieving the Syrians from assuming continued responsibility for searching for them, locating them, and returning them home.

May I add that today's operation, which ended beautifully although incomplete, would not have been possible without the unusual degree of dedication on the part of the defense minister, who in spite of all his responsibilities and the great load he has to shoulder, always found the time to study the minutest detail of the matter, and devoted his attention and power of decision to it. The same applies to the prime minister, who was involved in

the picture, participated in the decisionmaking, (?and brought the matter) to the attention of the entire Cabinet. The chief of staff also devoted an enormous amount of attention to this business, and the entire Israeli intelligence community helped. Let me also thank the Foreign Ministry personnel and the person who conducted the contacts with the IRC, Mrs (Lambert), who all contributed so significantly.

The team also deserves commendation, particularly Major General 'Amos Yaron, whose important and vital participation throughout the negotiations and in carrying out the agreement again proved his great talent. Let me also point out Colonel Quti Mor, without whose work it would have been difficult to make progress.

I see it as my duty and pleasure to note the team of advisers, including [former chief of the IDF Intelligence Branch and the Mosad] Me'ir 'Amit, [former MK] Lova Eli'av, [former chief of the IDF Manpower Branch] Moshe Nativ; and express thanks for the constant advice of my predecessor as negotiator, Arye Merinsky.

The main part of the negotiations was conducted through the IRC, but one ought to mention the indirect contribution of the Austrian Government in this respect, for which we are grateful and thankful. There are many various and important international bodies, which I will not specify, that lent their hand to the mission, but it was above all the patience, forbearance, and spiritual heroism of the families which helped. Without these it would have been difficult to engage in surreptitious negotiations that were so secret and difficult. Thank you very much.

Release Negotiations Discussed

TA281920 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1740 GMT 28 Jun 84

[News conference by Defense Minister Prof Moshe Arens, Chief of IDF Manpower Branch Major General 'Amos Yaron, and chief negotiator Shmu'el Tamir immediately following addresses by the three, at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv on 28 June — live, with unidentified correspondents]

[Text] [Question] I would like to ask what considerations led the negotiating team — and later the Cabinet — to give up the fundamental condition presented by Israel, and agree to draw a distinction between the captives held by the Syrians and those held by the terrorists who, if I am not mistaken, are also being held on Syrian soil.

[Arens] As has already been reported, for a long period of time— up until 7 months ago — the Syrians had expressed no readiness to conduct contacts with us on the issue of the release of the prisoners. The only contacts we had were with, of all things, the terrorists, and they were held through the International Red Cross [IRC]. These contacts led, among other things, to the release of six prisoners out of eight held by the terrorists. When we first got word through the IRC that the Syrians were prepared for a prisoner exchange involving those prisoners of ours which they held— who numbered three at the time — in return for the Syrian soldiers we had plus two others they added, we faced a very serious dilemma. Without going into detail, every one can imagine the nature of our dilemma, and what it meant for the families of the three prisoners who returned home today. Everyone can also imagine the difficulty of the period when we informed the families of our feeling that we must at least make an effort to examine the possibility of bringing the Syrians to agree to an exchange of prisoners, including those held by the terrorists, and locating the missing-in-action.

I must say we did not entertain high hopes or expectations that this was feasible. After all, for approximately 18 months the Syrians totally refused to have any contact with us on the matter. We can still recall the Syrian inflexibility in regard to the Yom Kippur war prisoners, when they in fact added demands pertaining to the political or territorial spheres before they were even prepared to return our prisoners. Yet, as I tried to explain to the families, we felt that we had to make this effort, even if it entailed extending the imprisonment and suffering of the three captives held by the Syrians, to whom the three kidnapped personnel were added during the past 2 months. Yet, approximately 6 months later, we realized that in fact we were achieving nothing, and began to fear that Syria might come up with unforeseen changes which might suddenly close that unexpected opening presented us, thus forfeiting the opportunity to bring home these three boys and the other three who were subsequently added. We then decided, with a heavy heart, that the right way would be to reach an agreement with the Syrians on the basis of the conditions they had raised approximately 6 months ago. A few days ago, when they informed Shmu'el Tamir that they were only prepared to exchange the three prisoners of war, and not the three others who were kidnapped, we said: No, we are not prepared to go ahead with the arrangement [hesder]. Fortunately they rescinded their demand which at first seemed to be an ultimatum, and we reached the exchange that was witnessed this morning.

[Question] I would also like to ask whether the identity is known of the fourth man mentioned by Mr Tamir, as though there is information that he is being held by Ahmad Jibril.

[Tamir] Perhaps I would first add one thing in regard to the defense minister's reply to the earlier question. The fact that for 6 months we never gave up the principle which linked the Syrian prisoners with those held by Jibril contributed in a way which is still too premature to assess to obtaining the definitive information that Hezi Shay is alive. We have every basis to believe that Syria had pressured Jibril to make progress and advance toward us on this matter, as a result of our position. We have not had actual signs from the man that he is indeed alive, but the reality I described earlier exists.

Second, among their other demands, the Syrians demanded that detainees be released in addition to prisoners of war. This was one of the problems Israel had difficulty accepting in principle. When the three civilians were kidnapped — and they are civilians, whose status was not clear — the Syrians were accorded further grounds and we were provided with an extenuating reason for combining civilians in the release of prisoners of war.

Third, we received proof once again that the Syrians, at least outwardly, are saying that the Palestinians must conduct their own struggle, which they regard as a matter of principle.

Finally, authoritative and respected international bodies told us that we may face real danger if we miss the chance, as the defense minister has explained.

As for the second question, I cannot mention any names. I say that this is possible. First of all, a methodic way of hiding kidnapped people has been uncovered. Hezi Shay was concealed from view for 2 years, held in the dark. People were made to believe that he had died, until it was subsequently discovered that he is still alive. Samir As'ad was held by Hawatimah's men for a year, also hidden from the eyes of the world, whereas today we know that he is alive and being held by Hawatimah's men, and may meet with the IRC representative soon. Additional pieces of information which I will not go into here, for the sake of the issue at hand, also indicate that the two are not the only ones being given this kind of treatment.

[Question] Mr Tamir, could you say what contribution the Austrian Government made to the release of the prisoners?

[Tamir] The Government of Austria has been extending great and commendable assistance in making possible the contacts with Jibril. Indirectly, this constituted a substantial contribution to the negotiations with the Syrians, although in this case it was not Austria but rather the IRC that dealt with the matter.

[Question] Could you tell us whether our men were tortured by the Syrians?

[Tamir] Anyone who saw the parade of the Syrian prisoners on their way home today, and observed them tanned, healthy, and strong — as one would look after spending time in a military camp [as heard] — and compared them with the six Israelis who were very pale, the glaring difference could be seen immediately. Since the matter is still being investigated, at this stage it would be preferable for me not to add anything more.

[Question] Nevertheless, how can one explain the Syrian readiness to reach an agreement [sikum] with us precisely at this present time?

[Arens] I reported earlier that the Syrian readiness to come to an arrangement [hesder] with us was brought to our attention by them 7 months ago, in November. On 1 November 1983 we got word of this, so that the question is actually what made them change their mind, and digress from their previous position of rejecting contact of any sort with us over the exchange of prisoners, and what made them accept an exchange of prisoners in November.

I cannot give you an absolute explanation of this change of mind. We took action to try to bring about a change of position, and this may have helped. We did this through various messengers who visited Damascus and tried to persuade the Syrian leaders. We tried to make the Syrian prisoners here apply pressure to effect their return to Syria. I imagine that a combination of these two factors, plus perhaps other considerations that are an enigma to us, led to the Syrian announcement in November that they were ready to strike a deal.

Shamir Hails Return

TA281516 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this afternoon welcomed the return of the prisoners from Syria to Israel. We rejoice with the families, and receive them with happiness, Shamir said. We know what these families underwent — I visited them many times, Shamir said, adding: We are continuing our efforts to bring about the release of all the others who did not have the good fortune to return, and I hope that the day is near when all of them will return home.

Alignment Welcomes Exchange

TA281440 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1418 GMT 28 Jun 84

["Announcement by the Alignment Spokesman" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 28 Jun (ITIM) — We join all the people of Israel in rejoicing over the return of six of our sons from Syrian captivity, and share the grief of the families of the missing-in-action whose bodies were returned. We congratulate and thank all those in Israel and abroad who helped bring about the exchange of prisoners and the return of the bodies. We hope the families and prisoners will no longer experience pain. Nevertheless, at this happy moment we cannot forget the sons held by the terrorist organizations of Jibril and Hawatimah. We cherish in our heart a hope and a prayer that they, too, will come home soon — safe and sound.

It is good to take time out from the election campaign and feel the unity of the people in sharing one fate. Last night, when we first heard of the impending return of the captives, we all stood in awe of the unique combination of joy, grief, and hope: happiness — over the return of our sons from Syrian captivity, as each and every one of us knows what it is to be in a Syrian jail; grief — over the five sons who fell in combat and whose bodies were returned home; and hope — for the return in sound health of the four sons still held prisoner by the terrorists.

We are all united today in expressing appreciation for the government, the personalities and the international bodies that lent their hand to this important feat. Even in the midst of an election campaign involving a variety of differences of opinion — as befits a democratic government — it is good to know that we remain one people, sharing one fate.

COS Levi Views Exchange

TA281636 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1608 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi by Ya'aqov Eylon at an unidentified IDF airforce base — live]

[Text] [Eylon] Chief of Staff, how does it feel to greet the prisoners on their return home?

[Levi] This is a happy moment. These are soldiers who were imprisoned and returned. This struggle took 2 years and more, and I believe that it is important that we persist in this path, despite the fact that it appears to be a difficult one. We must persist, so that each time a case arises in which a soldier of ours needs help from the IDF and the State of Israel, he will receive it despite the difficulties sometimes encountered in providing such help and carrying out the necessary moves.

[Eylon] There are some who still remain in capitivity.

[Levi] That is true. We have the same attitude towards them, despite the difficult, unpaved, and winding road being taken advantage of by our enemies. This road has always proven itself, and I have no doubt that it will continue to do so in the case of the remaining prisoners.

Foreign Ministry Thanks IRC

TA281424 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1410 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman thanked International Red Cross [IRC] personnel for their role in achieving the prisoner exchange agreement, and also noted the important function performed by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, who personally handled the matter. In addition, the Foreign Ministry spokesman mentioned the efforts exerted by the United States and France in helping to bring about the exchange agreement.

Syrian Motives in Prisoner Exchange Analyzed

TA281322 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1255 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Excerpts] Syria has not yet announced the completion of the prisoner exchange with Israel. Damascus radio's political commentator explained today that Syria will continue the struggle on all fronts, whatever the cost. Our Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck reports details coming from Damascus:

[Begin Beck — live] The great mystery in the current prisoner exchange between Syria and Israel is what motivated Damascus to agree to a prisoner exchange at the present time, particularly in view of earlier Syrian declarations that they would release the Israeli prisoners only as part of an agreement [heskem] of IDF withdrawal from Lebanon. The latest reports that have reached the West imply that the battle for the succession of the presidential throne is almost certainly over, and intimate that President al-Asad is very close to resigning, leaving the senior post to be handed over to his brother Rif'at. If these rumors are well-founded, the prisoner exchange could be regarded as a kind of festive farewell on the part of Al-Asad from his people, after 14 years in power.

However, as long as these rumors have not been corroborated by Damascus, one should exercise caution and a certain measure of skepticism in addressing them, because — as will be recalled — the Western press rushed to bury Al-Asad — known among his associates as the Syrian Sphinx — but he has always been reincarnated. At any rate, Al-Asad has granted the Syrian masses a nice gift on the occasion of the Ramadan holiday. The Syrian radio commentator explained that the Syrian move is not a result of weakness or any change of policy. He claims that Syria will succeed in all its fronts, at whatever cost, including human life. The Syrian media, and particularly the state-run radio, have been exercising restraint in reporting on the event itself. Although it was the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY [SANA] which first reported the prisoner exchange — an announcement that caught Jerusalem by surprise — Damascus radio preferred to open its main broadcast yesterday with a minor report.

A Damascus radio news anchorperson, who ornamented her report with the usual terminology used in reference to Israel, detailed what Syria has received in return, without mentioning how many prisoners would be turned over to Israel. She also emphasized that Syria will get back the bodies of the holy victims who fell in the battle against the enemy, as she calls it.

It is interesting to note that at a state dinner marking the breaking of the Ramadan fast held last night by the Syrian president, Al-Asad never addressed the prisoner issue. Instead, he discussed at great length those who fell in the battlefront, emphasizing their importance in fortifying and building the Syrian nation.

The SANA reported that the prisoner exchange operation was the outcome of lengthy negotiations conducted over several months through the mediation of the International Red Cross, and presented the exchange as a Syrian achievement and a result of Israeli concessions. Evidently, the Syrian capture of the three members of the liaison office in Ad-Dubbiyah, as well as UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's most recent visit to the region, only served to speed up the agreement.

Shamir on Egypt, Lebanon, Moving U.S. Embassy

TA290812 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 28 Jun 84

[Address by Prime Minister Shamir to the closing session of the Jewish Agency Assembly in Jerusalem on 28 June]

[Excerpts] The major breakthrough in the century-long dispute between the Jews and Arabs in this region has, of course, been the peace treaty with Egypt which was initiated, negotiated and concluded in the last few years. With all its deficiencies, this treaty has formally terminated the state of war between Israel and Egypt, the largest and strongest of our neighbours who was, in the preceding 30 years, our principal enemy in every war.

I will not deny that the present state of relations with Egypt falls far short of our expectations and is a cause for concern on our part. The concrete expression of peace is normalization of relations. But the Egyptian Government has suspended normalization and maintains, what its spokesmen are calling, a "cold peace" with Israel. Nevertheless, we must not underestimate this Achievement which ended 30 years of total Arab hostility and boycott. A cold peace is still preferable to a hot war. We are hopeful that our relations with Egypt will improve, that negotiations will be renewed, and that we will find a true basis for

co-existence with our southern neighbour. We know that the people of Egypt want peace with us. Certainly, this is the wish on our side of the border.

Our eastern border is basically quiet. Even though there have been no contacts or negotiations with King Husayn, we have a de facto peace. We have repeatedly declared our readiness for bilateral talks with Jordan. We are willing to negotiate with them on a pragmatic basis regarding the solution of common regional problem and securing better understanding and cooperation that will benefit both countries and nations.

This is the season of the year when our eastern border is open, when the bridges are open, and tens of thousands of Jordanian citizens and citizens of other Arab countries enter our land for the summer vacations. This is surely one of the most extraordinary developments in modern times.

Let me say a word about Lebanon. There is a great deal of confusion about it at this time, especially because of the election campaign. Unavoidably, Lebanon has been injected into the election. I have to re-state that Israel has no conflict with Lebanon, no dispute over territory or other matters. We did not enter Lebanon in order to conquer or hold Lebanese territory. We entered Lebanon in order to break the power base of the main centre of anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish terrorism. That goal was accomplished.

At this point in time the PLO terrorists are prevented from operating against us from the territory of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and now also Lebanon. It is our primary concern to ensure that the terrorists do not return to southern Lebanon after we have withdrawn our forces in that area. In the absence of adequate security arrangements the terrorists will come back to the area, will again hijack the southern part of that unfortunate land and once more threaten our northern population. Only last week the commander of the Lebanese forces in the south, General Lahd, urged Israel not to announce a departure date and not to move out ahead of time. National responsibility demands that we state openly and frankly our readiness to leave Lebanon only when acceptable security arrangements are in place. And then, hopefully, we shall have the opportunity of seeking a peaceful relationship with our northern neighbour.

In the north-east we face an adversary that is committed to a dogmatic and rejectionist policy and aspires to the leadership of the Arab world. The Syrian rulers want to maintain the state of war with Israel until they reach strategic parity, by which they mean military superiority, over us. They will never achieve this goal because we shall not let them.

My friend, it is correct to say that our international relations in America, Europe and the Third World have improved in recent years. Some of those that severed diplomatic relations with us at the time of the Yom Kippur War have already restored those relations, others have indicated their desire to do so. A number of embassies have been re-opened and some have come to Jerusalem.

We are following with interest and close attention the great debate that is taking place these days in the chambers of the U.S. Congress on the status of Jerusalem as our nation's capital. We have not entered this internal debate, but we have made it abundantly clear that we consider it an anomaly that, 36 years after creation of our state, even friendly nations have their embassies outside the capital.

We believe it inevitable that, with the passage of time, the nations of the world will move their embassies to this historic, magnificent city.

We cannot anticipate the outcome of the debate in Washington, but the very fact that such discussions are taking place at the highest level of the United States legislature, has positive and historic significance.

Jerusalem's development in the last decade has been quite remarkable. The upsurge of building inside, and around, the city has now made it the largest metropolis in our country. Every effort is made to preserve the city's distinctive physical features as well as its spiritual qualities and tranquil atmosphere, which is characterized by the freedom of worship for all faiths and access to their holy shrines that is ensured by our government.

Our relationship with the United States, the leader of the free world, has had its ups and downs. I would say that right now the relationship is better than at any time previously. On my last visit to Washington I found that this relationship is based not only on shared moral values but on strategic cooperation and common perceptions in regard to the causes and solutions of the problems of this region. There is a growing cooperation in various defence areas. We are also looking forward to the prospect of finalizing the free trade area agreement with the United States.

There is another area of Israel Government policy to which I must refer. From the historic, national point of view, the settlement of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District is one of the most important developments.

There are those who complain that these settlements have been established at the expense of developing other parts of the country. Let me, therefore, give you the facts. In the years 1977-1984 we established 230 settlements as compared with 53 in the preceding 8 years. This figure is comprised of 79 settlements in Judaea and Samaria, 17 in the Jordan valley, 14 on the Golan and 9 in Gaza. But we also established 67 in Galilee, including the observation points, 31 in the Negev and the Arava and 13 in the north and the centre of the country. This is the new map of Eretz Yisra'el. We have sunk our roots into every party of the land and established our presence and our right.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Yadin Dies

TA281420 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Prof Yiga'el Yadin, the second chief of staff and former deputy prime minister, died suddenly this morning in Mikhmoret. He was 67 years old.

Israeli POW Said Killed in Recent Raids

JN281822 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] This evening the official spokesman of the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine — DFLP] told us that the Israeli air and sea raids on Al-Aranib Island and northern Lebanon on Wednesday and Thursday resulted in the killing or wounding of a large number of Lebanese and Palestinians, and in capturing others. He added that the raids destroyed the place where the DFLP was keeping Israeli POW Master Sergeant Samir Hammud As'ad, and that three of his guards, including Lieutenant As'ad Khadir an-Nabulsi, were martyred.

The spokesman added that the DFLP holds the Israeli leadership fully responsible for the death of the Israeli POW and for the wounding of scores of Lebanese and Palestinian civilians as a result of these savage raids. The DFLP extends its condolences to the family of the prisoner, whom it wanted to return safely in exchange for the release of Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails and some Lebanese in the Ansar Camp.

Israeli Sources Doubt Statement

TA290527 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Report by military correspondent Doron Rosenblum — live in the studio]

[Excerpts] First let us refer to the statement issued by the spokesman for Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front. According to the statement, Samir As'ad, the Druze soldier held prisoner by this organization, was killed in the raid on Rabbit Island [I Hashefanim] off the coast of Tripoli which was bombarded by Israel Air Force planes 2 days ago.

The statement about As'ad's death has not yet been confirmed by any other source. Sources in Israel say that they have not yet received any information confirming that Samir As'ad was killed in the Air Force raid. The fact of As'ad's imprisonment on Rabbit Island has also not been proved true yet, but it is currently being checked.

In any event, the sources say that the reports of As'ad's death should be regarded very skeptically. The terrorist organizations have several times in the past tried to spread disinformation. For example, one may cite the incident about 18 months ago when the Jibril organization's spokesmen said that two Israeli prisoners had been among the passengers of a car which was fired upon by IDF soldiers when it tried to break through a roadblock in the Beirut area. This report was checked at that time and was proved false.

In the case of Samir As'ad as well, the sources note, one should be very skeptical of the terrorists' statement. In any event, the matter is currently being checked, the sources pointed out.

No Casualties Reported in 28 June Explosion Near Tyre

TA290514 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2225 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Southern Lebanon, 28 Jun (ITIM) — A 9-kg explosive charge blew up along the side of the road this afternoon south of Tyre. There were no casualties.

Soldiers of the army of southern Lebanon conducted extensive arrests today in the village of Ma'rakah, near the scene where an IDF officer was killed on Wednesday. The southern forces conducted house-to-house searches, confiscated weapons, and arrested suspects. A man was seen escaping during the searches. The soldiers opened fire and seriously wounded him.

ALGERIA

ASH-SHA'B Criticizes U.S.-Israeli Alliance

PM281409 Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Jun 84 pp 1, 7

[Muhammad 'Ali Khawazim article: "Under the Cover of Strategic Alliance, the United States Expands Internationally and Israel Expands Regionally"]

[Excerpts] The U.S.-Zionist relations of strategic alliance are getting stronger every day, as reflected in the mounting strategic coordination and cooperation in all fields. The aim of this strategic alliance is to serve U.S.-Zionist common objectives, especially keeping Israel strong, consolidating its aggressive and colonialist presence, and enabling it to impose that presence on the Arab world as a fait accompli. A strong Israel,qualitatively superior to all the Arabs, is of great value to the United States, which uses it as a tool and forward base in the Middle East to control the region and its oil wealth.

The joint naval exercises carried out in the Mediterranean off the Lebanese coast fall within the context of strategic cooperation in accordance with the strategic understanding memorandum agreed to and signed by Israel and the United States in Washington 30 November 1981. One aim of the exercises is to influence the situation in Lebanon in favor of U.S.-Zionist designs in the region and create more difficulties for the Lebanese government of national unity, which is trying to reunite Lebanon, maintain security, and rid the south of the Zionist occupation.

The U.S.-Zionist strategic cooperation agreement, which came after the shah's downfall in Iran and the formation of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force in the Middle East, is a major turning point in U.S.-Israeli special relations, particularly in connection with their aggressive designs against the Arab people, their aim to impose U.S. hegemony on the entire Middle East region, and their efforts to expand the Camp David circle.

The U.S.-Zionist strategic cooperation and the ensuing U.S. commitments to Israel expose, beyond any shadow of doubt, the nature of the U.S. collusion in the Zionist aggression against the Arab nation and against the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination. This flagrant collusion is geared to consolidating the Zionist occupation and colonialist expansion in Palestine.

Recent developments make Israel, in the words of U.S. President Reagan, "the only power in the region capable of helping the United States strategically. Israel has the determination, national solidarity, and technological and military capabilities to support the United States as a trusted friend and ally." President Reagan has also emphasized that there is no room for U.S. neutrality where Israeli interests are concerned.

The aims and dimensions of the U.S.-Zionist strategic alliance constitute an increasingly serious threat to the Arab nation and its national security. This alliance, as confirmed by a former CIA director, gives the United States a chance to "expand internationally and enables Israel to expand regionally."

LIBYA

Release of Tunisian Border Guards Reported

LD281805 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Jun (JANA) — The Libyan Arab people's authorities released three Tunisian border guards detained on 8 May when they strayed across the Libyan Arab-Tunisian border.

The three people have been released as a fraternal gesture to confirm the ties and the depth of relations between the two fraternal peoples.

Freeing the three Tunisian border guards is a step confirming good will within the framework of Libyan Arab initiatives for joint action between the Jamahiriyah and Tunisia. It is also done to avoid anything that hinders or prevents the emergence of positive results in relations between the two fraternal countries.

With the release of the three Tunisian border guards, we reaffirm our concept of relations between nations, mainly that any interactions or minor and passing incidents wither away and are overcome by the true desire and the keen wish to strengthen relations of cooperation and respond to the will of the people in the two fraternal countries.

We affirm this repeatedly because, from a pan-Arab point of view, any secondary and tanscient incidents can never distract us or check our will. But we always feel we must sustain sacrifices if we are going to protect the high level of cooperation against any setback.

This is why the gesture on the part of the Jamahiriyah embodies its concern with continuing cooperation between the two countries. It emanates from its pan-Arab tendency along the road to Arab unity and the bypassing of all obstacles.

We hope minor questions and interactions will not in the future distract our attention from our great issues. Each side must work toward providing all the favorable conditions for fulfilling all the agreements reached between the two countries.

Tunisia's Mzali Telephones Al-Qadhdhafi

NC290637 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Text] Tunisian Prime Minister Brother Mohamed Mzali yesterday telephoned the brother leader of the revolution. He conveyed President Habib Bourguiba's greetings and congratulated him on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr. Brother Mzali asserted to the brother leader the firm relations existing between the two fraternal countries.

Sudan Liberation Army Captures Town, Downs Jets

LD281252 Tripoli JANA in English 0920 GMT 28 Jun 74

[Text] South Sudan, Ramadan 29, June 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Sudanese Liberation Army commander announced the fall of the city of Burr in Junguls region and the defeat of Numayri's unit there.

The release of the war prisoners will not take place till our conditions are met and any attempt to free them will endanger their lives, he warned.

On the 23rd of June the commander announced that they brought down two jets attempting to recapture the town of Fashir.

SUDAN

Republican Decree Extends State of Emergency

JN281456 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Jun (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri issued a republican decree extending the state of emergency for another month as of 29 June 1984. This comes in accordance with Article 111 of the Constitution and Article 3 of the People's Assembly Law for 1984, which impower the president to extend the period of the state of emergency.

Numayri Issues Instructions on New Courts

JN281811 Khartoum SUNA in English 1735 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Khartoum, June 28 (SUNA) — No court of any kind is to be set up to look into cases other than the existing emergency courts and those formed by the president of the republic and judicial courts, President Ja'far Numayri directed today.

According to Presidential Legal Affairs Minister Awad al-Jid, who had an audience with the president this morning, Numayri has expressed his satisfaction over the performance of the emergency courts after reading the comprehensive report submitted to him dealing with these courts and emergency attorney.

TUNISIA

AFP: Gendarmes Captured by Libya Reportedly Released

NC281715 Paris AFP in English 1700 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Tunis, June 28 (AFP) — Three Tunisian gendarmes captured by Libyans on the border between the two North African countries were released today, an official source said.

The incident on May 8 caused a crisis in bilateral relations, with Tunis recalling its ambassador in Tripoli when the gendarmes were not released.

Earlier today an official source said that Tunisia was preparing to send a new note to Tripoli on the freeze in relations.

Foreign Minister Submits Proposed Note to Libya

LD281842 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba conferred this morning at the Republican Palace in Carthage with Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior Mohamed Mzali in the presence of Habib Bourguiba Jr, the personal adviser to the president of the republic.

President Bourbuiba also received Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi, who reviewed the current international situation with the president, particularly Tunisian-Libyan relations in light of various notes exchanged between the foreign ministries of the two countries.

He also submitted to the president the text of the note the Foreign Ministry intends to send to the Libyan Jamahiriyah. The note defines Tunisia's stance regarding the state of relations between the two countries.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Congratulates Yugoslav, Italian Party Leaders

EA282339 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, PMAC and COPWE chairman and commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, today congratulated Comrade Ali Sukrija on his election as president of the Presidency of the LCY and Comrade Alessandro Natta on his election as secretary general of the Italian Communist Party.

The message Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam sent on behalf of the broad masses of Ethiopia, the PMAC, the COPWE Central Committee, and on his own behalf, states that the election of Comrade Ali Sukrja as president of the Presidency of the LCY, such a high level of leadership, would further enhance the strong relations between the two countries. Comrade Chairman Mengistu wished Comrade Ali Sukrija good health and successful work.

In his congratulatory message to Comrade Alessandro Natta on behalf of COPWE and the Ethiopian people, our comrade revolutionary leader stated that the Italian Communists' unreserved struggle for world peace and the freedom of oppressed and exploited people and their political and ideological experience contributed greatly not only to the Italian Communist Party but to all progressive forces. The comrade chairman expressed confidence that the election of Comrade Alessandro Natta to this high post would further enhance the strong relations between the two countries' parties and wished Comrade Allessandro Natta good health, long life, and successful work.

Eritrean Forces Agree To Unify Fronts, Form Council

LD291054 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0430 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Text] Three Eritrean liberation movements have agreed in principle to merge and form a united liberation movement representing all the parties in their just struggle against enemy Abyssinia. At a recent meeting held by the leaders of the fronts in Khartoum, last Monday, an agreement was reached to unify the liberation fronts and form a council of its own.

CHAD

UNIR Appoints 15-Member Executive Bureau

AB281525 Paris AFP in French 1415 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 28 Jun (AFP) — Fifteen persons, most of whom are former members of President Habre's FAN Command Council, were appointed on Thursday to form the Executive Bureau of the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR], the new Chadian political party created in Ndjamena last Sunday.

This movement was created in the wake of last Friday's self-dissolution of the Frolinat-FAN which was then holding a constituent congress in the Chadian capital.

The Executive Bureau is one of the ruling organs of the movement along with the Central Committee, the 80 members of which were appointed yesterday, and the congress. The members of the Executive Bureau, the permanent executive organ in the Central Committee, are responsible to the latter. The list of the members of the Executive Bureau is as follows:

Chairman — Hissein Habre;
Executive Secretary — Gouara Lassou;
Deputy — Youssouf Sidi;
Commissioner for Orientation, Information, and Mass Education — Djime Togou;
Deputies — Robert Kadjangaba, Fara Seid, Fatime Kimto;
Commissioner for External Relations — Mahamat Nouri;
Deputy — Adoum Moussa Seif;
Commissioner for the Armed Forces — Idriss Deby;
Deputy — Yorongar Moibian;
Commissioner for Security — Iesaka Hassan;
Deputy — Ahmat Dadji;
Commissioner for Finance, Economy, and Rural Development — Eassire Koumakoy;
Deputy — Mahamat Gig Yt.

CONGO

Zaire's Mobutu Arrives, Confers With Sassou-Nguesso

AB281814 Paris AFP in French 1533 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Brazzaville, 28 Jun (AFP) — Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko arrived in Brazzaville this morning at the start of a working visit, and he was welcomed by his Congolese counterpart, Colonel Denis-Sassou-Nguesso, the Congolese radio announced. The two heads of state immediately held a private talk lasting more than 2 hours. During the talk they examined the Chadian problem, the crisis within the OAU, and bilateral relations between Zaire and Congo, the radio said.

ZAIRE

President Receives Ivorian Minister Bearing Message

AB281543 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1500 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 28 Jun (AZAP) — Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, the founding chairman of the MPG and president of the republic, on Thursday morning received at Camp Tshatshi Ivorian Agriculture Minister Bra-Konan who delivered to him a verbal message from President Houphouet-Boigny. Minister Bra-Konan, who refused to disclose the content of this message, expressed his entire gratitude to Marshal Mobutu for doing him the honor of receiving him.

Talking about coffee production, on which Ivory Coast greatly depends, the minister admitted that it is now passing through a very difficult time. With the quota system, we are obliged to stock a huge surplus production. Last year's drought enabled some relief which the action of the dollar and the American interest rates have managed to eliminate, said the minister, who added that that situation is quite uncertain. He observed that it is desirable that producers and consumers should hold talks so that at the September negotiations there may be a situation of cooperation instead of conflict. Ivory Coast's future lies in the diversification of agriculture, the intensification of production, and stock-breeding, he emphasized.

The Ivorian agriculture minister's visit to Kinshasa falls within the context of the 156th session of the Executive Committee of the International Coffee Organization. He was conducted to the leader Mobutu Sese Seko by Citizen Nyembo Shabani, state commissioner for agriculture and rural development.

Briefs

Ambassador to Singapore — Citizen Bagbeni Adeito Nzengeya has been accredited as Zaire's first ambassador to Singapore. He presented his credentials at 1130 local time on Wednesday to His Excellency Devan Nair, president of the Republic of Singapore [Text] [Kinshasa AZAP in French 0700 GMT 28 Jun 84 AB]

GHANA

Information Secretary Addresses UN News Conference

AB281358 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The secretary for information, Miss Joyce Aryee, has said in New York that the new democratic process in Ghana could make history in the end. She noted that it took several hundreds of years for democracy to settle in Europe and America. Now Africa is having its turn, even if unfortunately in the 20th century. And once democratic practices that are sustainable are achieved, most people will wish goodbye to coups d'etat. Miss Aryee was addressing a news conference at the UN headquarters as part of her 2-week visit to the United States and four European countries. The information secretary said defense committees, which have been formed at work places and in the country at large, have been found to be fairly good and the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] is trying to strengthen them.

On Ghana-U.S. relations, Miss Aryee described them as very cordial and as characterized by renewed aid to Ghana. Asked about possibilities of Ghana restoring diplomatic relations with Israel, broken up after the 1973 Arab-Israel war, the secretary said Ghana is maintaining the OAU position. Miss Aryee condemned the apartheid policy of South Africa and said it is a system that should not be countenanced anywhere. She said Ghana believes that apartheid ought to be uprooted. She also believes that Namibia should be independent without conditions being imposed. Miss Aryee added that recent overtures by the Pretoria regime to its neighbors should be taken with a pinch of salt.

For his part, Ghana's ambassador at the United Nations, Victor Gbeho, said Ghana is not against Israelis or Jews, but she is opposed to the Israeli government's policies toward Africa and the Arab countries.

Miss Aryee is expected to meet U.S. officials and Gcanaian community leaders to explain the PNDC's policies and objectives.

Bulgarian Premier Arrives at Head of Delegation

AB281848 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Grisha Filipov, arrived in Accra today at the head of a 29-member delegation on a visit to Ghana. Speaking to newsmen at the airport, Mr Filipov said the visit, which is at the invitation of the government, is to strengthen the bonds of cooperation that exist between Ghana and Bulgaria. He said his presence in the country will help him to discuss with Ghanaian officials global issues and matters of mutual interest. Mr Filipov hoped the political and economic path taken by Ghana will benefit its people since Bulgaria is also pursuing the same path of economic independence.

At the airport to welcome him were the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] coordinating secretary, P.V. Obeng; the special adviser to the PNDC, Captain Kojo Tsikata; some PNDC secretaries; service commanders; and members of the diplomatic corps. Mr Filipov later laid a wreath at the Revolution Square near Flagstaff House.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Sanctions Against Minister, Attorney General

LD290535 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2230 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Latest reports from Bissau indicate that the Council of State was still in session early this evening, and the line-up of the new government is expected to be announced soon.

Meanwhile, the PAIGC [African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde] Central Committee announced in Bissau today sanctions against Attorney General Nicandro Barreto and the minister of economy and finance, Victor Freire Monteiro, considering them involved in the splittist activities of former Prime Minister Victor Saude Maria.

Nicandro Barreto was suspended and barred from holding any leading post for the maximum period of 12 months, and Victor Freire Monteiro was downgraded. In the face of the decision taken today by the party's Central Committee, Nicandro Barreto and Victor Freire Monteiro will most certainly cease to hold their present government posts.

It will be recalled that for involvement in the same activities the minister of natural resources, Joseph Turpin, and the minister of internal administration, Cruz Pinto, had already been expelled from the party.

NIGERIA

NLC Says it Will Not Be Used by 'Fugitives'

AB280952 Lagos NAN in English 0918 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Lagos, Jun 27 (NAN) — The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has said that it will not allow itself to be used to destabilise the country by "discredited fugitives who messed up the economy of the nation."

The congress was reacting to a statement credited to the minister of information, social development, youth, sports and culture, Group Capt Solomon Omerua, that the fugitive in their plot to overthrow the Federal Military Government, wanted to encourage "demands and ultimatums by workers." The congress however stated that it would continue to make genuine demands and take legitimate industrial actions to support its demands for better working conditions.

On the recent call by Catholic bishops for a return to civil rule, the NLC said that a national debate should be set in motion on how to organise and run a just and democratic society. The NLC said that the last civilian administration was not any more

democratic than the previous 13 years of military rule, "if the arbitrariness and repressive character of the police, the role of the courts and other organs of the state are anything to go by."

In another development, the NLC called on representatives of its affiliated unions to turn out in large numbers on July 4 when the public officers (protection against false accusation) tribunal would deliver judgment in the charge of false publication against two *GUARDIAN* newspaper journalists, Tunde Thompson and Nduka Irabor. In a statement in Lagos today, the NLC called on all members of the national executive council of the congress to be in attendance to express their solidarity with the two journalists.

SENEGAL

ANC Figure Interviewed on Cubans in Angola

AB281255 Dakar PANA in French 1117 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Dakar, 28 Jun (APS-SEN/PANA) — The withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola is not an original idea from South Africa, but rather from the American Administration, Ahmed Qono, ANC representative in Dakar said at a press conference in Dakar on Wednesday to mark the 29th anniversary of Freedom Day in South Africa.

South Africa, finding itself cornered at the Geneva meeting, seized on the Cuban troop issue in order not to give in, Mr Qono stressed. The responsibility of the failure of that meeting can almost be imputed to the United States, which by refusing to grant independence to Namibia [words indistinct].

Support to South Africa is given not only by the United States but also by some other Western countries, Mr Qono emphasized. It is therefore up to the people of those countries to exert pressure on their governments to make sanctions taken against South Africa more effective. The effective implementation of these sanctions is very necessary and can constitute a second front in the successful fight against apartheid, the ANC representative continued, adding that in the Scandinavian countries, the citizens have undertaken to work to put an end to the delivery of North Sea petroleum products to South Africa.

Ahmed Qono also noted that the attitude of progressive forces in Europe made Pieter Botha's visit to Europe very discreet. According to Mr Qono, this visit took place at a very difficult time for South Africa and Mr Botha, in going to Europe, wanted to obtain a clearer support from European countries that have a lot of interests in South Africa.

Paradoxically, this visit of Mr Botha is going to be beneficial to the ANC, Mr Qono stressed, for the European countries, which now feel guilty, now agree to receive his organization. He said his organization henceforth "talks about power and wants to be treated on equal terms."

Talking about the agreements concluded between Angola, Mozambique and South Africa, Ahmed Qono, after stressing the right of these countries to reconstruction, indicated that these agreements will have no effect on the ANC's struggle, for the organization has "no bases, no radio stations nor financial support" from these countries.

"The ANC existed long before Frelimo in Mozambique and it will continue its struggle in spite of everything, even if one cannot state when the final victory will come." Mr Qono said. However, this does not adversely affect the struggle which has already had some success, such as the call for unity whose anniversary is being celebrated and which has brought awareness to blacks, mulattoes, Indians and some whites in South Africa so that they no longer accept separation, but feel closer together now.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Confers With Soviet Ambassador

MB281752 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, today received Arnold Kalinin, the Soviet ambassador to our country, at Futungo de Belas in Luanda.

People's Assembly Session Set for 25-27 July

MB280825 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the president of the People's Republic of Angola, yesterday called for the next session of the People's Assembly to be held from 25 to 27 July in Luanda. The session is expected to discuss and approve the minutes of the last ordinary session of the People's Assembly, the report on the implementation of the 1982 national plan, and the report on the accounts of the state budget for 1982.

The meeting will also discuss the draft for the family code and the adherence of the People's Republic of Angola to the convention against all forms of discrimination against women. A series of 21 documents approved by the standing commission will be ratified by the deputies, who should conclude their proceedings with the election of the coordinator of the People's Assembly commission for construction, housing, transport, and communications.

Repair Work on Luena Airstrip Finished

MB280914 Luanda ANGOP in French 1600 GMT 27 Jun 84

[Text] Luena, 27 Jun (ANGOP) — Afonso Quimona, provincial director of the national airlines company, has revealed that the asphalting work on the landing strip of the Luena Airport in Moxico Province, which started last January, ended after the second week of June.

According to the same official, the repair work was undertaken by the Cuban construction enterprise, Uneca, and it consisted mainly of coating the landing strip with two layers of tarmac to make it capable of receiving large and small cargo planes.

Uige Battalion Completes Readiness Maneuvers

MB280817 Luanda ANGOP in French 1600 GMT 27 Jun 84

[Text] Uige, 27 June (ANGOP) — According to an official source, important maneuvers to test the cabability and combat readiness of the combatants of the 9th battalion of the 5th brigade, located in the city of Negage in the Uige Province, have taken place recently in that city.

At the end of these maneuvers, which Zeferino Estevao, Uige provincial commissioner, attended, some prizes were awarded to the officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers who distinguished themselves in their combat readiness and in the demonstration of discipline and organizational spirit.

At the closing ceremony, the Uige provincial commissioner exhorted their group of combatants to apply their acquired knowledge in the defense of the Angolan revolution. Officers of the defense and security bodies stationed in this region, as well as members of the provincial directions and government, attended this important ceremony.

BOTSWANA

RSA Pledges Support of Customs Union

MB281937 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Botswana and South Africa have expressed their commitment to the Southern African Customs Union agreement as an instrument of economic cooperation and development in the region. The two countries have agreed to pursue studies and discussions for the further improvement of the union.

A release issued today says delegations led by ministers from Botswana and South Africa met in Pretoria yesterday to discuss matters relating to the customs union agreement. The Botswana Government was represented by the vice president and minister of finance and development plan, Mr Peter Mmusi while South Africa was represented by Dr de Villiers, that country's minister of industries, commerce, and tourism.

The release further says that both delegations expressed their respective countries' commitment to the agreement as an important instrument of economic cooperation and development in southern Africa and agreed to pursue studies and discussions for its further improvement. The Botswana delegation returned home yesterday.

President Comments on Southern Africa Issues

MB290637 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, has said that it is his hope that the burning issues of southern Africa will be ultimately resolved through negotiation rather than violence. President Masire was speaking this afternoon when he received the letters of credentials of the new Australian High Commissioner to Botswana, Mr Christopher Edwards.

He said Australia had always played a constructive role in the search for solutions to the problems of southern Africa and praised that country's support for the call for freedom and equality in Namibia and South Africa as well as its support for the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference [SADCC]. The president said that the people of Botswana appreciated the provision of technical assistance, equipment, and training facilities by Australia.

Earlier on, Mr Edwards had said that his government would continue to do all it could to support the Botswana Government developmental programs. He pointed out that his government welcomed the increasing economic cooperation among SADCC countries and would continue to support these cooperative efforts.

LESOTHO

Opposition Party Faction Urged To Seek Dialogue

MB280959 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Station Commentary: "Myths and Realities"]

[Text] The pronouncements of the recent meeting of the Executive Committee of Mr Mokhehle's faction of the Basotho Congress Party [BCP] reflect the continuing myths that continue to cloud the opposition party's perception of the realities of the Lesotho situation and experience. This is most unfortunate for the country. The nation as a whole is the only loser for this defect in perception.

The BCP suffers from a strange and apparently incurable illness. It is a rare malady of severe political myopia. The BCP mistakes the trees for the forests. It hails a victory in battle as the end of the war. It sees fires where there is no smoke. It clutches at straws in the wind. The BCP understands fiction better than reality. The party seems more at home with fantasies rather than with truth.

On 17 June 1984 the Executive Committee of Mr Mokhehle's faction of the BCP issued a wide-ranging statement that is not worthy for its hollow claims. The faction claims a (?pioneering) role for the BCP in the nation's current status as a self-governing political entity. The political history of the nation does show, of course, that the BCP did join with other parties in the campaign of the fifties and early sixties for the independence of the Kingdom of Lesotho. That history also shows that the BCP deserted the ranks of Lesotho's nationalist campaigners soon after the 1965 elections. That act of desertion cannot be hidden beneath political rhetoric. It cannot be disguised under fallacies and historical distortions. It was a treasonable act against the aspirations of the majority of the people of this Kingdom.

The leadership of the BCP, particularly Mr Ntsu Mokhehle, has to account to this generation, including the BCP's own followers and future generations of Basotho, for stabbing Lesotho in the back. Mr Mokhehle has to account for his attempts at setting the clock back in the political development of the Kingdom through seeking delays and postponements of the date of Lesotho's independence.

If the memories of the Mokhehle faction of BCP are short and somewhat faded, those of the nation are certainly not. No one gave the mandate to the BCP leadership to desert the independence campaign in 1965. The BCP leadership cannot claim that it had authority from anyone to go to London and New York and beg on its knees that 4 October 1966 was too early a date for the independence of Lesotho. After all the intemperate statements that the BCP had made to the British colonial administration in Lesotho in the preindependence era as partners in the independence campaign, the sight of Mr Mokhehle and his collaborators on their knees pleading for extension of colonial rule must have indeed seemed ironic if not pathetic to British eyes. To the nation it was and will ever be a sight of national disgrace.

The BCP in 1965 and 1966 sunk to the lowest point of personal degradation. It may well be that the Mokhehle faction of the party is unable to rise from that point. It is perhaps too much to expect the faction to show enough physical and intellectual energy to scale the walls of that disgraceful and dark abyss to which it sunk and rise back to a position of light from which it can perceive the realities of Lesotho.

Generosity to one's compatriots is not a sin. It is a virtue. Generosity to the BCP its not misplaced in the current circumstances. It is an act of compassion that is timely. Radio Lesotho in this spirit suggests that the Executive Committee of Mr Mokhehle's faction of the BCP should engage in a dialogue with the right honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan and seek guidance on a constructive assessment of the realities and not the myths of the Lesotho experience.

Briefs

Envoy From Sierra Leone— The first Sierra Leonean high commissioner to Lesotho, His Excellency Mr Francis Eku Karimu, this morning presented his credentials to his majesty, King Moshoeshoe II, at the royal palace in Maseru. Speaking on the occasion, his majesty said that the common membership of Lesotho and Sierra Leone to the OAU, the Commonwealth, the Nonaligned Movement, and the United Nations formed a strong bond to hold the peoples of the two countries. His majesty pointed out that the Lesotho Government has steadfastly pronounced its adherence to peaceful discussions to solve bilateral conflicts based on mutual trust, respect of national sovereignty, and observance of human rights. He said that the recent political developments in the subregion are not only of direct concern to the people therein but to the whole continent. His majesty said that the presence of Sierra Leonean high commissioner in Lesotho should open direct lines of communication within the Government of Sierra Leone and provide avenues for fruitful discussions in an attempt to solve the problems confronting Africa and the world at large. The high commissioner of Sierra Leone also paid a courtesy call on the prime minister, the Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan. [Text] [Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 28 Jun 84]

MADAGASCAR

Upper Voltan Leader Holds Talks With Ratsiraka

AB281140 Paris AFP in French 0953 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Antananarivo, 28 Jun (AFP) — Upper Voltan head of state Captain Thomas Sankara, who paid a 3-day official working and friendship visit to Madagascar, left Antananarivo this morning for Maputo for a 48-hour visit to Mozambique.

The visit, during which the chairman of the National Revolutionary Council (CNR, the supreme organ of Upper Volta) attended the ceremonies marking the 24th anniversary of the proclamation of Madagascar's independence in 1960, was marked mainly by political talks on African problems with Malagasy President Didier Ratsiraka.

According to observers, during these talks there was a perfect identity of views between the two regimes which belong to the progressive group of countries of the OAU and follow the same "revolutionary socialist" path for the political and economic development of their countries.

With particular reference to the future of the OAU, which has for months been faced with serious differences of opinion on the Western Saharan and Chadian issues, sources close to the Upper Voltan delegation stress that the next OAU summit will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the OAU headquarters.

The same sources assert that this summit will be held on the presence of SDAR and will elect a new chairman. According to some observers Malagasy President Ratsiraka might be a candidate.

Concerning the situation in southern Africa, it was noted during the talks that the OAU progressive group will continue to give active support to the frontline countries.

Finally, on Chad, Antananarivo and Ouagadougou reaffirmed their desire to see the Chadians resolve their own problems by themselves without any pressures from any quarter whatsoever, notably military pressures. There is no doubt that the unexplained cancellation of the scheduled visit of Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT), the armed opposition of Chad, to Antananarivo within the framework of the Malagasy national anniversary celebrations prevented Presidents Sankara and Ratsiraka from getting a fresh view of the situation in this region.

Sankara Departs

MB281803 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 1030 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Excerpt] Thomas Sankara, the Upper Volta head of state, and his presidential delegation, which had honored us in attending the commemorations of the national day, left this morning aboard a special Air Volta airplane.

The Upper Volta head of state was seen off at the airport by President Didier Ratsiraka, who was dressed in a military uniform, leading the chairmen of all the state institutions, and civil and military authorities of the Republic. The departure was greeted with as much warmth as the arrival since the revolutionary women of the Malagasy Revolutionary Vanguard Party [AREMA] led by Mrs (Hortense Marchand), national coordinator and member of the Vanguard Political Bureau, sang revolutionary songs and shouted slogans with the help of the AREMA cultural group.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel: 'Decisive Assault' Against 'Bandits' Planned

MB281251 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] President Samora Machel yesterday announced in Beira that the Mozambique Armed Forces in close liaison with the popular masses were preparing a decisive assault against the armed bandits. The Mozambique head of state was briefly reviewing the military offensive underway in the country particularly in the central region.

President Samora Machel lauded the important victories achieved by our defense forces in the struggle against armed bandits and pointed out that during the first half of this year, particularly in Sofala Province, our forces have inflicted heavy blows on the armed bandits to once and for all put an end to armed banditry in Mozambique. Repeating the denunciation he made in his speech of 25 June with regard to the emergence of new elements of conspiracy from imperialism and the nostalgic colonialist forces, Field Marshal Samora Machel disclosed that the government was collecting proof which will soon be made public.

President Samora Machel said that the armed bandits who live in the bush are the scum of the society and instruments of their former bosses and foreign forces who still have dreams of returning to colonial times and are thus trying to destroy the independence and liberty of the Mozambican people.

The Mozambican head of state pointed out that those who go into the bush are nothing but [word indistinct]. They are weak people unable to resist a malaria or tick fever, hunger, or (?thirst).

Upper Volta President Arrives for Official Visit

MB281124 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Capt Thomas Sankara, the president of Upper Volta, arrived in Maputo at about 1030 today for an official visit to Mozambique at the invitation of his Mozambican counterpart Field Marshal Samora Machel. President Thomas Sankara, who took over the presidency of Upper Volta in August 1983 following a coup d'etat, was received on arrival by President Samora Machel. Also present at the airport were members of the Frelimo Political Bureau, the People's Assembly Standing Commission, and the Council of Ministers. Members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Maputo and a number of Maputo residents were also present at the airport to welcome the president of Upper Volta, who will conclude his visit to Mozambique tomorrow.

Capt Thomas Sankara is heading a delegation which includes members of the National Revolutionary Council, the supreme organ of state power in Upper Volta, as well as the ministers of foreign affairs and environment and tourism, Hama Arba Diallo and Basile Guissou respectively.

The Upper Voltan president was greeted by a 21-gun salute while the Mozambique Armed Forces band played the national anthems of Mozambique and Upper Volta. The Upper Voltan president received due military honors from an FPLM company following which he was invited to inspect a guard of honor. Before leaving the Maputo international airport, Presidents Samora Machel and Thomas Sankara watched some cultural dances performed by a number of cultural groups from Maputo.

Official talks at the highest level between delegations from the two countries are expected to be held today.

Talks Begin

MB281611 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Excerpts] Talks between high-ranking Mozambican and Upper Voltan delegations are being held in Maputo this afternoon.

Capt Thomas Sankara, Upper Voltan president, is leading a delegation which includes members of the National Revolutionary Council, the supreme party and government organ of Upper Volta, as well as the ministers of foreign affairs and environment and tourism, namely Hama Arba Diallo and Basile Guissou.

Machel, Sankara Speak

MB290624 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Text] President Samora Machel yesterday appealed for the safeguarding of the principles of the OAU Charter in order to realize the plans for a totally free and prosperous Africa. Samora Machel made this appeal in a speech in Maputo last evening at a banquet in honor of Upper Voltan President Captain Thomas Sankara. Only our unity can weaken the objectives of the enemies of Africa to destroy the OAU, Samora Machel stressed. The Mozambican head of state's speech centered on the present African situation, particularly the situation in southern Africa. President Samora Machel described the Nkomati Accord as a victory for all the peace- and progress-loving peoples.

In turn, Upper Voltan President Thomas Sankara spoke about the situation in his country before and after the coup d'etat which brought him to power on 4 August 1983. On the situation in southern Africa, he expressed his country's support for the stands taken by Mozambique in the region, as well as for the struggle of the South African people led by the African National Congress of South Africa.

Present at the banquet, besides the two countries' delegations, were members of the Political Bureau, the People's Assembly Standing Commission, and the Council of Ministers, as well as other invited guests.

The Upper Voltan head of state, who began his official visit to Mozambique yesterday, will leave Maputo today for Lusaka.

Castro Sends Anniversary Congratulations

MB281047 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and president of the Council of State and Government of the Republic of Cuba, has sent a message of congratulations to President Samora Machel on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the proclamation of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

In his message, commandant Fidel Castro underlined the benefits of our armed struggle for national liberation which has resulted in the liberation of other fraternal peoples in southern Africa. President Fidel Castro reiterated the Cuban people's willingness to strengthen further the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries' parties, governments and peoples.

On the occasion of this historic date for the Mozambican people, President Samora Machel has also received congratulatory messages from President Abdou Diouf of Senegal, King Juan Carlos I of Spain, President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, and King Baudouin I of Belgium.

NAMIBIA

Nujoma Holds Talks With Spanish Officials

For reportage of SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma's visit to Spain, including his discussions with Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran, see the Spain section of the 29 June Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

SOUTH AFRICA

Finance Minister Resigns, Successor To Be Named

MB281201 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The minister of finance, Mr Owen Horwood, has announced his resignation from the cabinet. Mr Horwood, who has been a member of the cabinet since 1972 and minister of finance since 1975, read his letter of resignation to the prime minister in the course of his reply to the third reading debate on the budget in the assembly this morning. His resignation takes effect at the end of the current parliamentary session.

In a statement released after Mr Horwood's announcement, the prime minister, Mr P. W. Botha, expressed his gratitude and that of the cabinet for Mr Horwood's service to the public and said that his resignation represented a loss for everyone. He was grateful that Mr Horwood would not be resigning as governor of the Development Bank of Southern Africa. Mr Botha said he would announce Mr Horwood's successor as minister of finance tomorrow.

The prime minister also disclosed the contents of his written reply to Mr Horwood's letter of resignation. In the reply, Mr Botha said he was deeply grateful for the service which Mr and Mrs Horwood had rendered South Africa. As minister of finance Mr Horwood had had to bear a heavy burden both within and outside South Africa, and he had done so with distinction.

Horwood Praised

MB281756 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The Progressive Federal Party's chief spokesman on finance, Mr Harry Schwartz, says the retiring minister of finance, Mr Owen Horwood, has established South Africa's creditworthiness overseas and the country should be grateful to him. Paying tribute to Mr Horwood shortly after he announced his resignation from the cabinet in the House of Assembly today, Mr Schwartz said Mr Horwood had been a credit to South Africa in financial circles abroad.

In his tribute, the deputy minister of finance, Mr (Elai) Louw, said Mr Horwood had performed a difficult and thankless task with great distinction for 10 years. He would always be remembered for the way in which he projected South Africa's image with honor, dignity, and distinction.

The Conservative Party's chief spokesman on finance, Mr Jan van Zyl, expressed his party's high regard for the service Mr Horwood had rendered to his country. The New Republic Party spokesman on finance, Mr George Bartlett, said Mr Horwood had made a major contribution during 10 difficult years.

Education Minister Named

MB290614 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Text] The minister of education and training, Mr Barend Du Plessis, is the new minister of finance. The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, has announced in Cape Town that Mr Du Plessis is to succeed the retiring minister of finance, Mr Owen Horwood, at the end of the current parliamentary session. Mr Botha said in a statement that the minister of national education, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, would be asked to be acting minister of education and training.

Fourty-four-year-old Mr Du Plessis was elected to parliament in 1974. He became deputy minister of foreign affairs and information in 1982 and last year he was appointed minister of education and training. Mr Du Plessis was born in Johannesburg. He was headboy of the Hoerskool Voortrekker at Boksburg where he matriculated. He obtained a BC degree at the Potchefstroom University and later a Transvaal Higher Education Diploma at the Potchefstroom Onderwyskollege. Mr Du Plessis is married to (Antoinette van den Berg) of Krugersdorp and has three sons and a daughter.

Commentary Cites Oppenheimer on Nkomati Accord

MB282010 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Station Commentary: "Mr Oppenheimer's Remarks on Southern Africa"]

[Text] The campaign by the radical elements who would have the world believe that South Africans literally forced the countries such as Mozambique to enter into rapprochement with the Republic in order to dominate their country has been strongly refuted by the South African mining magnate Mr Harry Oppenheimer. Interviewed by the South African Broadcasting Corporation, SABC, Mr Oppenheimer said that in personal talks he had held with President Samora Machel of Mozambique, he had not gained the impression that the president felt he was a victim of South African policies of destabilization. On the contrary, he said, the president had indicated that he was very pleased with the Nkomati Accord. Mr Oppenheimer's observation falls in line with that of a senior executive of the South African foreign trade organization, Miss Sally Gallagher. Miss Gallagher, a frequent visitor to Mozambique and one who has spoken to more than 80 Mozambican leaders in various fields since the signing of the Nkomati Accord, recently denied outright that the impression existed in Mozambique that South Africa had forced the Frelimo government into the agreement and that Mozambique was today in effect under South Africa's thumb. She said all the people she had spoken to realized that there was a mutual need. Although Mozambique needed South Africa, South Africa also valued ties with Mozambique.

In referring to South Africa's role as a regional power in southern Africa, Mr Harry Oppenheimer mentioned the Nkomati Accord specifically as an excellent example of the positive use of South Africa's power. He said he hoped the accord would be extended to other countries as well and remarked that countries such as Lesotho and Botswana would definitely get material advantage from entering in rapprochment with South Africa. This has been the experience so far of Mozambique. In recent months, scores of South African businessmen have visited Mozambique, and countries such as Portugal and France have stepped up aid programs to that country. The United States has lifted a trade embargo imposed some years ago. There is no doubt about the fact that Western industrialists and businessment view the Nkomati Accord in a very positive light, and whereas previously Mozambique was regarded merely as another black African state slipping rapidly into chaos, today powerful forces in the Western world are combining to help that country towards economic recovery and national stability.

Official Negotiations Held With Ciskei

MB281749 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The first official negotiations between South Africa and the Republic of Ciskei after recent differences have been held in Cape Town. An official of the South African Department of Foreign Affairs has said the talks had dealt with matters of common interest.

President Lennox Sebe of Ciskei recently accused the South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, of interferring in the domestic affairs of Ciskei. Mr Botha has denied both allegations. [as heard]

The South African delegation to the talks was led by the deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Louis Nel, and the delegation from the Ciskei by the minister of finance and economic development, Mr (N.E.P. Manafini).

DIE TRANSVALER Examines Issues in By-Election

MB281150 Pretoria DIE TRANSVALER in Afrikaans 26 Jun 84 p 18

[Editorial: "Potgietersrus Has Been An Unpleasant Fight"]

[Text] Whatever the outcome of tomorrow's by-election in Potgietersrus, it will certainly not put an end to the present struggle within Afrikanerdom. The tragedy of this provincial election is that Afrikaners are busy trampling on each other to the delight of outsiders.

Stripped of lesser issues and biased interpretations, the outcome at Potgietersrus can only indicate the extent to which the Conservative Party [CP] has been able to sustain its isolated support in that part of the country or, if not, whether the National Party [NP] has been able to regain lost ground. In tomorrow's other by-election, at Rosettenville, the CP has not the slightest chance of winning.

What the voters at Potgietersrus have to ask themselves, therefore, is whether the CP's bitter fight with the government, the personal venom it has exposed, and the unpleasant fraternal discord are all worthwhile. In this regard, it is good to impartially examine the reasons why the CP is at odds with the government and the NP.

First, there is the accusation that the government is robbing the Afrikaner of his right to self-determination by bringing the coloreds and Indians into the new constitutional dispensation. This is nothing but twisted propaganda. A sober examination of the constitution clearly indicates that whites, coloreds, and Asians can never threaten each other's right to self-determination. The emptiness of the CP argument becomes evident by considering the complaints from the left that the NP has entrenched white domination through the new constitution.

Political mileage is also being made against the NP on the "give-away" syndrome. Left and right are claiming that the government is pumping all the money into the black homelands to the disadvantage of the whites. Yet at the same time the CP says the government is failing to complete the consolidation of homelands.

How does one reconcile the two arguments? Surely the consolidation program cannot be completed without spending money? The integration bogey has also been bandied about in Potgietersrus, with stories of uncontrolled racial mixing and not a single example offered as proof.

But the worst out of Porgietersrus have been the accusations hurled at the prime minister for, they say, betraying his people abroad when, in fact, Mr Botha has made great personal sacrifice in order to present the case for his country and his people overseas.

These are the facts that the voters in Potgietersrus should consider carefully, rather than allowing themselves to be swayed by emotional personal hate campaigns. The Afrikaner can no longer afford such feuding. Nor can South Africa.

Police Deny Torture Claims by Lutheran Bishop

MB281423 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The South African police have denied claims by a black Lutheran bishop that he was tortured and assaulted while in custody in South Africa. Lieutenant Colonel (Vic Heynes) of the Public Relations Division of the South African Police says in a statement released in Pretoria that Bishop (Senoane Simon Sarasone) was (?not) detained during 1970. Col (Heynes) also denies that South African Government had awarded the bishop any money after a damages claim. An earlier report from Washington said Bishop (Sarasone) had told officials of the human rights group Amnesty International and Senator Charles Percy of the United States of his treatment by South African Security Police. He said they had beaten and tortured him.

SWAZILAND

Pik Botha Arrives for Talks; ANC's Tambo Also Coming

MB281239 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] South Africa's Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha has arrived in Swaziland for talks with the Swazi prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi. Mr Botha will have an audience with Swaziland Queen Regent Ntombi before returning to South Africa late this afternoon. A Swazi Government source has confirmed that the leader of the ANC, Mr Oliver Tambo, will also be arriving in Swaziland today. Mr Tambo will also hold talks with Prince Bhekimpi, and they are expected to discuss Mr Tambo's visit to Mozambique yesterday where he met government and ANC representatives. Also on the agenda will be the activities of militant ANC members in Swaziland.

Botha Talks With Officials

MB281208 Mbabane Domestic Service in Siswati 1130 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Mr Pik Botha, South Africa's minister of foreign affairs, arrived this morning at Matsapha airport. He was received by Nsisi Mhambi, the minister without portfolio. Mr Botha then proceeded to Manzana Guest House, where he met with Prince Bhekimpi, the prime minister. During that time, part of his delegation from the South African Ministry of Finance held discussions with Mr Robert Mabila and Mr Kenneth Mbuli, principal secretary of the Ministry of Finance. Later, Mr Botha

and his delegation met with members of the Liqoqo [Supreme Council of State]. Prince Tsekwane, a member of the Liqoqo and also a chief in the Lavumisa district, spoke on behalf of the Liqoqo in welcoming the South African guests. This afternoon, Mr Botha is expected to meet with the Queen Regent, Ntombi, at Manzana Guest House. Mr Botha will grant a press interview at Matsapha airport before his departure from Swaziland.

Botha Sees Queen Regent

MB281651 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] Her majesty the Queen Regent Ntombi today appealed to the South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, to continue to work in close consultation with the Swazi elders. Speaking at Manzana Guest House during her meeting with the South African foreign minister and his delegation, the queen regent said the South African Government used to work hand in hand with the late King Sobhuza II, and he used to talk highly of Mr Botha. The queen mother assured Mr Botha that she and the elders of the Swazi nation will not deviate from the teachings and preachings of the late King Sobhuza II.

Her Majesty also expressed a word of thanks to the South African Government for the financial and material support Swaziland got following the recent cyclone that devastated the country's infrastructure. She also expressed Her Majesty's government's sincere thanks to the South African Government for the wonderful treatment given to the prime minister and his delegation when he visited Cape Town recently. The queen mother then asked Mr Botha to convey messages of goodwill to the South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha.

In reply, the South African foreign minister told the queen mother that he brought messages from the South African prime minister to the queen mother. Mr Botha told the queen regent that he was warmly received by the Supreme Council of State, the Liqoqo, adding that the warm welcome showed that the spirit of the late King Sobhuza II still existed in the Swazi people. He said he had good discussions with the Swazi elders, adding that he had a lot to report about to the South African prime minister.

The South African foreign minister on arrival at Manzana Guest House first went into private consultations with the prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, while part of his delegation from the Ministry of Finance and Customs held private discussions with the ombudsman, Mr Robert Mabila, and the principal secretary for finance, Mr Kenneth Mbuli. It was not immediately known what the South African foreign minister discussed with the prime minister. Neither were we informed what the South African officials from finance and customs and excise departments talked about with the ombudsman. However, reliable sources said the talks may have hinged on the 13 million emalangeni fraud and the land issue concerning the return of Ingwavuma and Ka-Ngwane to Swaziland.

Introducing members of the Supreme Council of State to Mr Botha and his delegation this morning, a member of Liqoqo and chief of Lavumisa, Prince Tsekwane, said the South African-Swazi talks were aimed at promoting peace in southern Africa. Prince Tsekwane said the Swazis welcomed Mr Botha and his delegation wholeheartedly, bearing in mind that Mr Botha used to be a personal friend of the late King Sobhuza II. The Liqoqo member said the talks were also aimed at strengthening the good relations which were started by King Sobhuza II. Prince Tsekwane said the teachings of our late king were based on respect of mankind, irrespective of color, sex, and creed, so that peace and accord between nations should prevail.

On arrival, Mr Botha was met by the minister without portfolio, Mr Mhambi Mnisi, who was with some cabinet ministers at Matsapa airport.

Johannesburg Reports on Talks

MB282001 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and senior officials have held in-depth discussions with Swazi Government leaders. Among the topics of discussion were the alleged irregularities under the customs union agreement. Mr Botha was accompanied on his visit to Swaziland by the commissioner of customs and excise, Mr Dirk Odendaal, and the head of the Africa division of his department, Mr (Ray Killen). Talks were held with the Swazi prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi Dlamini, and the Swazi State Supreme Council. The South African delegation was also received by the queen regent, Ntombi.

The Swazi Government has promised its full support in the investigation into the custom's union matter. The investigation is to be continued. Mr Botha said Swaziland had explained the circumstances which had led to the dismissal of two Swazi ministers and the Army and police chiefs. He said security matters had also been discussed and had been assured that the Swazi Government would not allow its territory to be used for the planning or execution of any form of violence against any of its neighboring states.

Referring to border adjustments, Mr Botha said there had not been enough time to discuss the matter fully. He had, however given a brief explanation of South Africa's standpoint on the matter. The Swazi Government had expressed certain reservation on South Africa's standpoint but had agreed that this sensitive issue had to be resolved. Further discussions on the issue are to take place between the two governments.

Tambo Fails To Arrive; Expected in 'Few Days'

MB282019 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1900 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] It is reported that ANC leader Oliver Tambo failed to appear as expected at Matsapha airport today. It is said that Tambo is now expected to arrive in Swaziland during the next few days.

Former Finance Minister Subpoenaed by Ombudsman

MB281847 Mbabane Television Service in English 1630 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The former minister of finance, Dr Sishayi Nxumalo, was this morning handed a subpoena by the Manzini station commander to appear before the ombudsman on 4 July. Mr Nxumalo is expected to answer questions on the customs multimillion rand fraud, the secret minute leaked to the *GOLDEN CITY PRESS* on overpayments of members of the Supreme Council of State, and the Swaziland Chemical Industries affair.

Dr Nxumalo is understood to have expressed misgivings about his scheduled appearance in the light of various accusations leveled against him by the ombudsman.

More on Subpoena

MB281655 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The former Swaziland minister of finance, Dr Sishayi Nxumalo, has been subpoenaed to appear before the Swazi ombudsman next Wednesday. Our Africa desk reports that Dr Nxumalo was summoned to the Manzini police station this morning to receive the subpoena. Dr Nxumalo told the South African Broadcasting Corporation that the subpoena was in connection with the release of a document which revealed the overpayment of some members of the Supreme Council of State, the evasion of 13 million rands in customs dues, and financial irregularities in the Swaziland Chemical Industry.

Our Africa desk says the document was a confidential memorandum sent by the Swaziland accountant general to Dr Nxumalo just before he was dismissed. The memorandum appeared in a news media last weekend. Our Africa desk points out that no suspicion of involvement in Customs Union fraud rests on the four Swazis recently dismissed from their posts. They are Dr Nxumalo, the minister of foreign affairs Mr Richard Dlamini, the ex-Army chief Colonel Mangomeni Ndzimanze, and the former commissioner of police, Mr Titus Msibi. In fact, the four were dismissed shortly after Dr Nxumalo had given the go-ahead for an investigation of the fraud in which high-ranking Swazis were rumored to be involved.

Police Plan Deportation of More ANC 'Activists'

MB281543 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] A Swazi police source says preparations are underway to deport about 20 ANC activists in custody on charges of illegal entry into Swaziland and the illegal possession of arms. The source said efforts are being made to persuade the authorities to drop the charges against the men to expedite their deportation.

ZAMBIA

Paper Says Border With Zaire 'Still Tense'

MB281529 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] The state-owned *TIMES OF ZAMBIA* reports that the border situation between Zambia and Zaire is still tense. According to the report, the meeting between President Mobutu of Zaire and President Kaunda of Zambia last weekend apparently did not help alleviate the tension between the two countries.

Kaunda Addresses 'Rumors,' Criminal Offenses

MB290626 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Jun 84

[Text] Rumors which have recently swept Lusaka alleging that an international magazine had been withdrawn following disclosures of financial dealings of certain people in the leadership have been dismissed as untrue. President Kaunda told a news conference in Lusaka yesterday that he also heard the rumor about the magazine and was equally surprised that all attempts to trace it proved fruitless. Dr Kaunda told the nation that the leadership had nothing to hide and that as far as he was concerned these were just rumors designed to destroy.

At the same ceremony Dr Kaunda ordered the withdrawal of passports from any Zambian holders convicted of illegal trafficking of drugs and other criminal offenses outside the country. He also described as immoral and sinful any party leaders past or present who engaged in such activities, saying the Central Committee was pained by such activites. Dr Kaunda could not say much on the disturbing development where Zambians were being arrested for illegal trafficking in mandrax and in dagga in foreign countries because he said he did not want to prejudice the cases that were before the courts of law.

Kaunda Announces Third National Convention

MB290534 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Jun 84

[Text] President Kaunda has announced that the third national convention, which is to examine the present economic situation and consult on various problems, will be held from 23 July to 25 July. Dr Kaunda has said the question of soaring prices in the country as related to black marketeering will be one of the top items of the agenda. He said the country has reached a turning point, not in terms of despair, but in terms of the great opportunities that can be turned to good account if Zambians talk and consult together a little more as a nation than they now do. The president admitted that the soaring prices have preoccupied the whole nation, but assured the public that the leadership, which is equally concerned, is determined to find a long-term solution. He said people should exercise patience as this issue will be tackled at the national convention, but at the same time emphasized that the real answer lies in increased production.